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# THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE

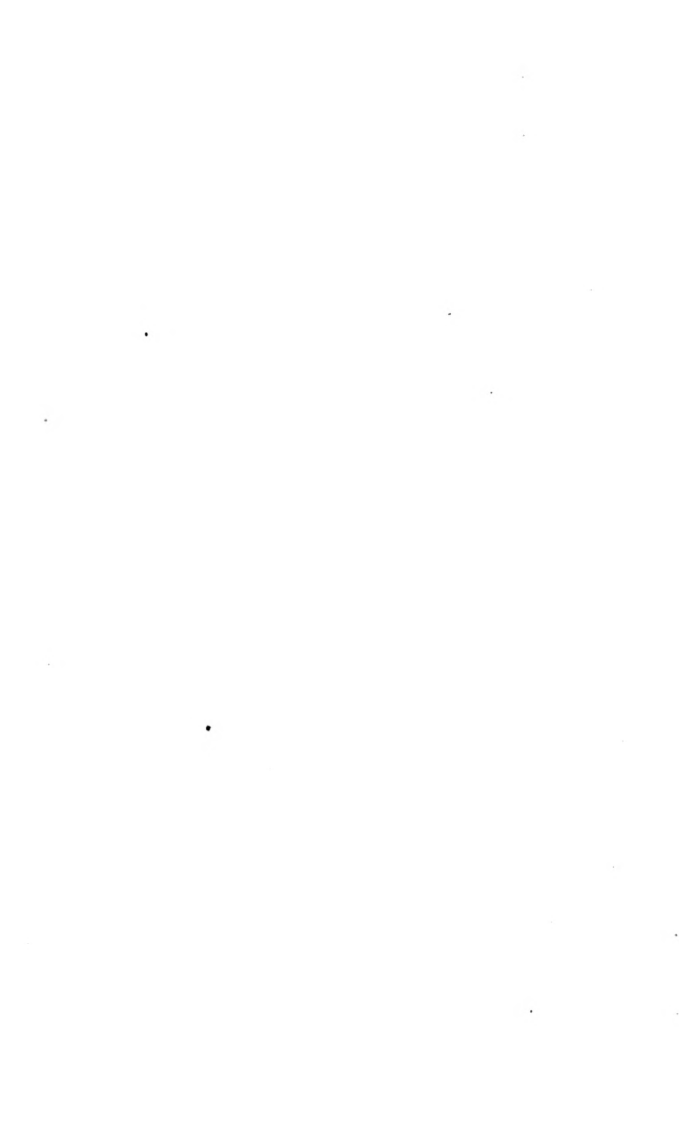
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James W. Anderson



(Anderson)

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THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE



# THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE

*By*

JAMES W. ANDERSON

KEOKUK, IOWA

*Secretary Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church*

INTRODUCTION

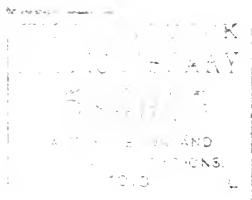
*By*

BISHOP WILLIAM A. QUAYLE, D. D., LL. D.



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[1912]



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TO THE MEMORY

OF

*Mrs. Ginebra Anderson-Boyd*

WHOSE CONSTANT GOOD NATURE, PATIENCE,  
AND SUNNY-HEARTED DISPOSITION MADE  
CONTINUOUS SUNSHINE ALL ABOUT  
HER FOR THE TWENTY-NINE YEARS  
OF HER EARTHLY LIFE, THIS  
VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY  
DEDICATED.

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## INTRODUCTION

BROTHER ANDERSON is a lover of youth and keeps his own youth-heart as all wise and good men do. Out of this enjoyment of youth and love of youth and heart of youth he has preached and written. He has been sane. He has not ranted. He has said true words and pure. He has wanted to help youth where the battle was urgent and fraught with peril. I think he has helped, and his book will stir up the good in the life of the soul of youthhood. May it be so by the blessing of God our Savior.

WILLIAM A. QUAYLE.



## PREFACE

THIS little volume is sent out to the Epworth League and other young people of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and to the youth of the land, with the prayer that it may lead unsaved young men and women to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as a personal Savior; that lukewarm Church members may be quickened into renewed activities in Church work; that the faithful ones may be strengthened and encouraged in their efforts and brought into a still closer relation and fellowship with God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If these results are reached, my highest ambition for these chapters will have been attained.

Most of the contributed messages were secured in answer to a personal request to the different authors asking for a two-minute message to the young people of my own congregation, while pastor at Stanberry, Mo.

A number of persons insisted that such messages deserved a larger hearing, and hence their publication.

JAMES W. ANDERSON.





# Thoughts That Breathe



## CHAPTER I.

### THE VALUE OF THINKING.

“Think truly, and thy thoughts  
Shall the world’s famine feed;  
Speak truly, and each word of thine  
Shall be a faithful seed;  
Live truly, and thy life shall be  
A great and noble creed.”

—*Horatius Bonar.*

I CAN NOT analyze the processes of human thought; but I am very sure that a man’s thoughts largely control his life and have much to do in determining what his future character shall be.

You have seen the icicle form, drop by drop. If the water is clear the icicle will sparkle with beauty, otherwise it will be colored through and through. So character is formed, thought by thought, deed by deed. If each thought and deed be pure and right the life will sparkle

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with loveliness. Otherwise it will be shaded and marred.

A man thinks of a new dwelling or a congregation of a new church and determines to build. An architect is consulted; certain dimensions, restrictions, and requirements are given him and he thinks out the palatial residence or the massive cathedral in every minutia of detail until the buildings stand out in all their perfection, to his mind. Then the contractor with his workmen execute the plan and men see what was already in the architect's thought.

The ruler of a great nation, kingdom, or empire thinks of certain contiguous territory as being a desirable addition to his own realm, or of certain principles that he would like to see enacted into international law. He determines upon the accomplishment of his purpose, marshals and concentrates forces, directs military campaigns, overturns and changes boundary lines, starts new processes of thought, and a nation enters upon new life.

No doubt thousands had seen an apple fall from the twig of the tree to the ground without thinking anything about the how or the why. Newton saw and thought out the principles underlying the application of the mighty law of gravitation. Tighlman, the glass grinder, in visiting a lighthouse, noted that the wind whirling the sand against the windows had ground the glass; and thought out the sand blast. Watts saw the lifting of the kettle lid and thought out the power of steam and its application. Handel listened to the kling-klang of the blacksmith's hammer on the anvil and

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thought out "The Anvil Chorus." Excell listened to the chuck-a-luck, chuck-a-luck of the car wheels as they passed over the joints in the rail. He was running over in his mind the old song, "In the Gloaming," and thought out the anthem, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," to the melody of "In the Gloaming" with the accompanying after-time as suggested by the noise of the wheels. Ball thought and the mowing machine became a reality; McCormick thought and the reaper sprang into existence; Howe thought and instead of the former weariness of the stitch, stitch, stitch, we have the sewing machine as a boon to womanhood. Fulton thought and instead of the uncertain, slow, and dangerous process of lifting up a sail to catch the breeze, mighty steamers, veritable floating palaces, now plow the ocean and carry the mighty mass of travel with greater safety than men have in traveling on land in their private carriages.

True these various machines were crude as they came from the hands of these original thinkers, but they gave us the thought and the foundation for the splendid accomplishments of the present.

Eads thought and the mighty St. Louis bridge stands as the monument of his thinking. Morse thought and the electric telegraph became a possibility. Edison and others thought and still think, and application after application of electricity flashes from their fertile brains till we light our houses and streets, talk across a continent and under seas, propel machinery of every kind, and hear the reproduction of

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musical performances and great orations in our own parlors.

Roentgen thought and the physician, by means of the X-ray, locates the dangerous foreign substance in the body, performs a delicate surgical operation and saves a human life. Marconi and DeForest thought and men talk and send messages far and near without any visible means of communication.

Men have thought and as the result of their thinking we have asylums and institutions of learning for the unfortunate; the blind, deaf and dumb, and even for idiots.

Laura Bridgman, Tommy Stringer, and Helen Keller, each without sight, hearing, or speech, with their splendid educational equipment and qualifications are among the results of this marvelous process of education.

Is man the author of all these marvelous discoveries and inventions and the results which have followed them? Is he alone to have all the credit? No! God is back of it all. God thought and man was created, endowed with these mighty powers and possibilities.

Then God came to earth in human form and taught the rightful relation between man and man and set the example for all these beneficent undertakings.

It is not a new thought that material things are made valuable by the admixture of brain and brawn. The crude material in a typewriting machine costs possibly from five to ten dollars. When mixed with brain and brawn it sells for from fifty to one hundred dollars. The raw material for a locomotive engine is worth

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possibly \$1,000, the finished product as high as \$28,000. The canvas, brush, and colors for a painting cost but a trifle. The artist's conception transferred to the canvas increases the value to \$500 up to \$10,000, or even \$100,000. A recent magazine article made this statement: "A bar of iron worth five dollars worked into horse shoes is worth \$10.50; made into needles is worth \$353; made into pen-knife blades is worth \$3,285; made into balance springs of watches is worth \$250,000."

I want to emphasize the fact that you are to be leaders in the moral and religious world. Thinkers are in demand and the world is ready to pay the price for men in the various departments who are competent to think. Thoughtful young people are wanted for leadership in the great moral and religious developments of the age. The fact of your youth coupled with the demands and opportunities, cry out for your leadership. You can not escape the responsibility. You must lead your associates. They are full of vitality and vigor; of ambition and adventure. This energy must find an outlet. Rightly directed it makes them a tower of strength, a power for good. Turned into elements of evil it not only results in personal wreck and ruin, but carries others to destruction. In order to this leadership you need to think of your responsibility, the necessary preparation required. You need your whole life so subdued to Christ and so in love with Him, with His plans, purposes, and work as to shun that which would blot your character, stain your life, or mar your influence, and at

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the same time have a zeal for service that will send you out as His ambassadors, beseeching men in His name and in His stead, "Be ye reconciled to God."

You may not be able to think the great thoughts of the artist, the discoverer, or the inventor. You may not be able to think out a "Madonna," a "Christ on Calvary," and then transfer your thought to the canvass to the admiration and uplift of the millions; you may not be able to study out the great laws that govern the physical universe; you may not be able to invent labor-saving machinery; but you are to think greater thoughts than any of these.

God not only thought and created man, but when man sinned, God still thought, and Christ died to redeem a fallen world. While the robber or murderer thinks Satan's thoughts and lies in jail or dies on the gallows as the penalty for his sins, the minister, the missionary, the Christian worker think God's thoughts, see men in need, and sacrifice all personal interests in order to tell the story of redemption.

Men think on moral themes in all the intervening channels lying between the extreme boundary lines of Satan's thoughts and God's thoughts, put their thoughts in deeds of shame or actions of mercy and are rewarded accordingly. On the one hand it is the uneasy conscience, the fear engendered by a sense of guilt, possibly imprisonment or death and endless punishment beyond. On the other, it is a life of satisfactory service and happiness; a peaceful, tranquil departure to the land of eternal rest,

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to be at home with God and the redeemed for evermore.

Knowing this and the consequent responsibility, men ought to think. Ralph Wells says that Laura Bridgman asked her teacher, "What is the soul?" The teacher replied, "That which thinks, feels, and hopes." With radiant face, placing her hand on her heart, Laura added, "And aches so." No one who has been convicted of sin but knows what she meant. You have had the heart ache because of your sin against God.

John Spencer told of a young man who was fascinated with a ring having a "death's head" for a set. He was given the ring on the condition that he would look at it steadily for thirty minutes each day for a given time. He conscientiously met the conditions. He could not look at that set without thinking of death and eternity, and in a few days he earnestly sought the Savior; so to-day if sinners would only think, it would lead them to serve God; if the lukewarm would think, they would renew their allegiance; if all would think, they would be more God-like in every-day life.

Dare we believe for a moment that God meant for us to give, or that we are doing our duty when we give our best thought to prices of merchandise, to profit and loss, to money-making or to any of the things which at best merely furnish amusement, and that for only a little time? We are to live with God to all eternity, to converse with Him and angels and redeemed spirits. Our first business is to prepare for that association. The story is told,

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that Queen Victoria while out driving became interested in three little girls playing by the roadside and engaged them in conversation. She invited them to call on her at Windsor Castle and drove on. The children at once asked each other, "What shall we say when we call on the Queen?" and finally agreed on, "O Queen, live forever!"

You are invited not merely to visit, but to live with God. What are you going to talk about? How are you going to deport yourself? That depends entirely on how you prepare yourself here and now. What will be the theme of conversation? Creation? The glories of nature? The wonders of science? No; it will be the wonders of redemption. It is strange, yet true, that heaven and hell are more interested than earth in this. As soon as Dives awoke to his surroundings, he asked that a missionary be sent to his brethren on the earth to warn them; and we are told "there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth."

It takes effort to train the mind on the things that make for eternal peace. It takes persevering effort on the part of the painter, discoverer, or inventor. These men put their lives into their work, shut themselves up to it. "Eternal vigilance is the price of success" anywhere, everywhere.

We are therefore to cultivate the habit of thinking on things that are true, honest, just, lovely, pure, and of good report. Truth is an indispensable and eternal obligation. No one can afford to even think on anything else. "Truth belongs to the eternal order of things,"



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hence must endure forever. All that is false will perish.

You must be pure in thought as well as in the outward life. Allow impure thoughts a lodgment and it will not be long till they will be enacted in your lives. Be chaste, free from all stain; the whole life based on things thoroughly respectable and that will command universal admiration. Think on things that are lovely. Every manly and womanly virtue is to be coveted and treasured. "The fairest among ten thousand, the one altogether lovely," should be your model. Seek these things with persevering effort. Think on them until you assimilate them and they become a part of your very being. We can only hold ourselves to these things by persevering thoughtfulness. Put into practice in your daily life, they will form the rounds of the ladder on which you may climb heavenward and Godward.

Was the "Madonna," was The "Christ on the Cross" worth not only the thought and effort of production, but the study and labor of the years of careful preparation? Are the inventions of the age worth the pains? Then what shall we say of the soul of man? That life of yours is to be covered with the beauty of righteousness, to be carved into nobility of character, to be filled with all the fullness of God, to be fashioned after the God-molded, divinely-given model. This requires your very best thought and energy and is deserving, and the only course worthy those so highly endowed.

You are to think of these things that make for your eternal peace, and as you think of God,

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of His laws, of His love, of His character and the things in keeping with His revealed will, you will find yourself desiring them, striving after them, attaining unto them, so that you will grow up into Him who is your living head; and "will be no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building fitly framed together, groweth into an holy temple in the Lord; in whom we also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Your life is out before you. Only the dawning of the morning is past. Many problems will confront you. Bring to bear upon these, as they come singly or in mass, the persevering thought of your trained mind, ever kept fresh by constant activity and you will be able to conquer. And ever bear in mind that help may be had for the confident asking from One who "giveth liberally and upbraideth not," whose you are by the purchase price of His blood, paid on the cross of Calvary for your redemption. And ever remember that if faithful to Him in your thoughtful allegiance and service, He will bring you off "more than conqueror" in the end. Then when the last battle has been fought, the last enemy conquered, you will be permitted to "enter in through the gates into the city to go in to come out no more forever," there to enjoy the fullness of the reward of a life of fidelity to the "King of kings and Lord of lords."

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Seek not heaven, but "seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near." Give Him the whole heart, and live in daily communion with Him. Achieve for yourself, using every available help, the best, broadest training of mind and manner possible: that is a Christian education.

Take the Lord as an active partner in business and social life; dividing profits with Him honestly and generously. Don't trifle, but hold ever a hopeful and cheery view of life.

The imagination is a picture gallery. Keep it clean. Suffer no picture there that you will not be glad to have the pure of earth to see as part of your mental and moral equipment.

"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

Yours in haste, J. J. BENTLEY,  
*Corresponding Secretary Ensworth Deaconess  
Hospital,  
St. Joseph, Mo.*

I have your favor of yesterday. I am deeply interested in the course of sermons you will preach to young people. I was sitting on the porch of a millionaire in a certain city years ago, when the old man turned to me and said: "I would give all I have—yes, give this entire city, if I could be young like you again." Youth has a to-day and a to-morrow; but when one gets past middle life, he begins to have little but yesterdays. If I were to descend to slang and suggest a motto for your young people, it would be: First, "Catch on;" second, "Hold on;" third, "Hump." I beg your pardon for

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the seeming vulgarity of this last word, but it exactly expresses the idea.

I might also quote a motto of President Roosevelt's:

“When you play, play as hard as you can;  
When you work, don't play at all.”

And I might conclude in the words of the beloved apostle, “I write to you, young men, because you are strong.”

I trust that your series of sermons will open the eyes of many young people, and stir up in them the unconquerable unrest of ambition to make the most of themselves.

Very truly yours,

CLAUDIUS B. SPENCER.

*Editor Central Christian Advocate,  
Kansas City, Mo.*

To build up a right character is the chief concern of life. Without this all other possessions are naught. With this all other things come naturally and easily. Adjust the controlling centers of life to the controlling truth of the universe—the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man—gives the right life, the only happy life. Adopt the Christ ideals and let them control purpose and purify ambition.

Several centuries of experience of the leading peoples of the world attest the wisdom of this advice. There is no other road to real success. “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

W. BAYARD CRAIG.

*Pastor Central Christian Church,  
Denver, Colo.*

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My message is this: Give your whole heart to Jesus Christ. Make Him your guide continually, and remember that no one is ever lost in a straight road. With a hearty "God bless you abundantly,"

Yours for the Master,  
Brooklyn, N. Y. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

If I had a chance at the young people of the nation for a few minutes, I should say: What you are to be in the early and later future, you probably are just now. No one has a right to expect anything better from himself in the future than he is in the present aiming at and striving after. Therefore, begin to be now what you want to be a decade hence; and remember that nothing you can get in the way of knowledge can be of any value to yourself and to others unless it gets into *the whole of you*, the whole of your personality, the brain must *receive* it, the hand must *grasp* it, the life must be *controlled* by it, the eyes must *glow* with it, the voice must *ring* with it; as Paul says, the "whole spirit, soul and body" must be *possessed* by it. Therefore, dear young friends, pack the future into the present so far as your purposes and endeavors are concerned. If you would make music that will echo through the centuries, strike the keynote now!

Truly yours,  
Indianapolis, Ind. JOHN H. VINCENT.

1. "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." Cease from evil because the kingdom of goodness is at hand.

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2. "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." Obey Jesus Christ to the limit; give Him supremacy in character, relations and activity.

Ever yours,  
*Chicago, Ill.* WILLIAM F. McDOWELL.

What part am I to have in the affairs of this busy world? What position will men accord me when I shall have attained my best? These questions arise in the day-dreams of youth quite generally. Nor is the habit of day-dreaming to be disapproved.

But the answers to such questions are not determined by the easy play of youthful imagination. The problem is solved by a law that is about as inexorable in its workings as the law of gravitation. In the present order of things, that place is accorded to men and women quite generally which they fit themselves to fill.

An enterprising college president in this country has made a careful investigation of the status of the college man in business relations. He investigated such lines of business as banking, railroading, insurance, etc., with this result: That he found the men of liberal education at the front everywhere. The young man who began upon a limited preparation got along well enough for a time, but it was the exception to find him advancing beyond a clerical position; while the man who made a thorough preparation forged ahead rapidly. When the management of the great enterprises of the day want men for initiative and execution, they seek out the men who have

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laid the foundation broad and deep—the men of the vision, men who have reach and range of thought and purpose, the men of motive power and originality.

The distinguished naturalist, John Burroughs, in a recent article entitled "What My Life Means to Me," says: "I do not decry ambition, the aiming high, only there is no use aiming unless you are loaded, and it is the loading, and the kind of material to be used, that one is first to be solicitous about." The years of youth constitute the loading period of life. It will pay from every point of view to make it as long and as thorough-going as possible. The formative time is the time of preparation, the time to make sure of being ready for the great opportunity when it shall present itself. The demand everywhere is for strong, wise leadership. High character, accurate knowledge, the power of initiative and of prompt and efficient execution are the things that count above everything else. The call alike of the Church and the world is a call to broad, fine equipment for large service. The doors of our educational institutions swing wide with a cordial welcome to the youth of this day. **YOUNG PEOPLE OF METHODISM, GET READY!**

Faithfully yours,

WILLIAM F. ANDERSON.

*Chattanooga, Tenn.*

If I had the ear of the young men and women of the nation for one minute, I would say to them: "I can demonstrate to you that prosperity in this life, including good health, long

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life with contentment, and great possessions, with the certainty of the life to come, can be secured in only one way." And then I would say: "If you will give me your attention for a single minute, I will prove my words by the Scripture: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Yours faithfully,  
*Boston, Mass.* JOHN W. HAMILTON.

In answer to your question, I would say to the youth of the nation: First of all and most important of all, "Seek first the Kingdom of God," and then consecrate life and service, intellect and heart to the glory of God and the uplift and salvation of redeemed humanity.

Very truly yours,  
*Boston, Mass.* W. F. MALLALIEU.

You ask me to write a short message to your young people, mentioning that which I regard as the most important thing to be said to them. In answering such a request, some might expect me to say, "Go to college." But that is not the first thing that any young person should do. The first thing is to commit himself to the Christian life. Henry Drummond in his essay on "Arithmetic," says that the first thing for a young person to learn is to put first things first, and then let other things follow in their order; and the Bible says, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things will be added unto you."

But I would put next to that an urgent appeal



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for such self development and discipline as will help the youth of the Church to be of the largest service in the coming years. There is no place where such discipline can be secured properly outside of the Christian college. The exhortation of Saint Paul to Timothy was, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee." I would sound this as a tocsin in the ears of our young people, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee."

Faithfully your brother,

W. D. AGNEW.

*Ex-President Missouri Wesleyan College,  
Cameron, Mo.*

Your letter came while I was away on vacation, from which I have just returned. If I had the ear of the youth of the nation for two minutes, I think I would say something like this:

That God looks to the youth of this nation to lead in the work of the world's regeneration; that, to this end, they must realize that character is the supreme concern for time and eternity; that to be good is the only way to be great; to make others happy the only way to find happiness, and to follow the holy Christ is the sure path to peace and life eternal.

Fraternally yours,

W. F. RICHARDSON.

*Pastor First Christian Church,  
Kansas City, Mo.*

I give you from Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor and philosopher, a good word for young people: "If any man is able to convince

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me and show me that I do not think or act right, I will gladly change; for I seek the truth, by which no man was ever injured. But he is injured who abides in his error and ignorance."

Wishing you well, I am,

Yours truly, C. M. CHILTON.

*Pastor First Christian Church,*

*St. Joseph, Mo.*

Cherish high ideals. The men and women who have made the world have been dreamers. Columbus was a dreamer when he turned the prow of his ship toward the New World. Sir Isaac Newton was a dreamer when, in the falling apple, he saw the law which holds the universe together and guides the planets in their course. Jesus Himself was a dreamer. Napoleon says of Him: "He lived not out half His days, but see, His dreams have changed the course of history and transformed the world."

What is the value of an ideal? It gives aim and direction to your life. "The world," says Emerson, "gets out of the way of the man who knows where he is going." It gives also inspiration. The life without some lofty aim before it must always be dull and commonplace. Purpose puts zest into living. To-morrow, as you look out at it, should be no desert or barren waste, but a blue sea with white sails dancing in the wind; it should be a garden of fragrant flowers, something beautiful that calls to you and bids you do your best.

And the ideal will become the real. Do not be afraid of having too lofty an aim. The value of the ideal is not so much in its attainment

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as in the reflex influence it has over your life. It is like a voice calling you up the mountain side. Always it recedes before you, but you are climbing the mountain and getting a grander vista of the world. But you will achieve your aim. "He can who thinks he can." "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

I send this brief message in the hope that it may prove a stimulus to some young life reached by your book.

Sincerely yours,           JAMES M. PHILPUTT.  
*Pastor Union Avenue Christian Church,  
St. Louis, Mo.*

If I could have the ear of the youth of the nation two minutes, my message to them would be this: The only life worth living is the Christian life. It is the foundation of all that is permanent and good in this world and the next. Its principles underlie all desirable and legitimate success in every field of human endeavor. The longer I live the more profoundly true all this seems to me.

Very truly yours,           E. W. HOCH.  
*Topeka, Kansas.*                           *Governor.*

One who has opportunity to deliver but a single message to the youth of the land, and estimates properly the value of the opportunity thus given him, must have great difficulty in selection, or in the elimination of all those scores of subjects that are not of first importance. Yet I think I would say to the youth, speaking as one who loves his country and his kind, build up character—character based upon

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regard for the law of your being, the law of your conscience, and the law that bids you love your fellow-man. Making efforts to so build develops the virtues of courage and tempers all courageous effort with gentleness, thus illustrating the virtues most ennobling to the man who possesses them: obedience, courage, gentleness. Character so formed commands the confidence and the respect of our fellows, and I doubt not the approval of our Master.

Thanking you for the opportunity you have given me, I am,

Very respectfully,      W. B. HEPBURN.  
*House of Representatives, Washington.*

I reply to your letter as follows: The thing most worth while in this world is a clean, upright, efficient, right manhood. We do not drift carelessly into such a character, but win it by playing the man under all circumstances. That life is little better than a lost life that does not grow steadily fuller of joy, of power, and of light. Plan to get the best education—by which I mean, making the most of intellect and of native powers, keeping honor unsullied, temper unsoured, charity unmixed, and being above all things, a lover of truth.

Yours very truly,      N. W. HARRIS.  
*President Northwestern University,  
Evanston, Ill.*

Tell them that they ought to stay in the high school, thus acquainting themselves with the young people in the community in which they live until they have acquired all in the

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way of equality, aspiration, and patriotic enlargement which the high schools of the country almost uniformly furnish. Some time during the high school four years, if that be not already done, they ought to unite with some branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Then they ought to go to college and stay the four years in the Liberal Arts courses.

Very cordially yours, EDWIN A. SCHELL.  
*President Iowa Wesleyan University,  
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.*

The way to secure comfort is to act as if it were already possessed. Never seek comfort in things mean or low to which a rightly balanced nature will not stoop to apply. Never take sanctuary in a defiling corner, in pastimes and diversions that coarsen or weaken the moral fiber. The solitary are surer in loneliness than in corruption.

We do not feel and act afterward. The sovereign way is to make your feelings serve your purpose. If cheerfulness be lacking, act as if you had it. If you have aversion for others, which is unnecessary and unreasonable, interject acts of friendship. Ignore your demon of discomfort and the darkness will steal away. God's strength and comfort are very real blessings. When you want a good thing from God, act as though you had it. Courage, endurance, happiness, resolution, peace, come by this honor of God's pledge. Seek not comfort in Sabbatical or effortless environment, where dead levels prevail and difficulties are smothered out.

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Life without mountains is a malarial plain. Intensity brings calm. The solid meaning of comfort is just this: The marriage of great ideals with your fidelity, zeal and endurance. Be not afraid. Believe in life, and that belief will comfort your living. God needs your increase just as much as you need His grace. I see no need to doubt that He is drawing on your resources heavenward. We can be comforted when we act as though we were; when we move to the support of God's war on evil in the spirit of this text, when we urge our way forward to higher things.

S. P. CADMAN.

*Pastor Central Congregational Church,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Do you wish to make a success of life? Of course you do. You want *to be* as much *and do* as much as you can in this world. That should be the ambition of every one of us. How can we *do* this? By seizing every opportunity to improve the health of our bodies, the training of our minds, and the intensity of our spiritual lives. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." The consecrated life is the ideal life. (1) Let us take care of our bodies as to exercise, food, rest, having no deleterious habits that make young people old long before their time. (2) The mind *must be* active; so provide for it the best companions, the best books, the best thoughts; never give it an opportunity to cherish ideas that are not right. (3) The soul is always alert and must be filled with something; give it food out of the Word of

## THE VALUE OF THINKING

God, daily. Give it consecrated and loving companions in Christian service, and it will grow normally.

Cordially yours, IRA M. PRICE.

*Secretary International Sunday School Lesson  
Committee, The University of Chicago, Chi-  
cago, Ill.*

Although it is late, I reply to your letter and say: If I had the ear of the youth of this country for two minutes, I would say to them, stock your mind with the information and aspiration included in some of the great *biographies* of men who are themselves the products of our Christian civilization. The concrete impressions conveyed by biographies are worth tons of abstractions. I refer to the biographies of such men as Tennyson, Gladstone, Livingstone, Dr. Duff of India, Adoniram Judson, John G. Paton, Lord Macaulay, Queen Victoria, Abraham Lincoln, and others.

Trusting all is going well with you, I remain,  
Very sincerely yours,

*Boston, Mass.*

HENRY C. MABIE.

Covet the companionship of noble books, but remember that every man is a living poem. Listen to the world's great music, but keep your heart attuned to the music of humanity. Cherish visions, but translate your dreams into deeds. Keep an optimistic soul in a healthy body, and remember that happiness is a by-product of service.

OLIVER E. BEHEYMER.

*Cambridge, Mass.*

## THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE

Live your own life. Yours, not another's. Face the world as you find it; think your own thoughts; have a first hand and not a second hand in faith. Let the Nazarene be your only interpreter of life. Be genuine. Do not try to model your life after any human pattern. God called you into the world to enrich it with another human personality; not to be a colorless replica. Be yourself. But no man is highest himself who is not also Christ's.

*Kansas City, Mo.*

G. H. COMBS.

Had I only two minutes to speak to the young life of this busy world, I would say: God lives and has a message for you. Get it in the very morning of life. Believe in Jesus Christ, believe in mankind, believe in yourself. Great things are expected of you; great demands will be made of you. You can not fail; you will not fail if you think truly, speak truly, and live truly.

“Think truly and thy thoughts  
Shall some soul's famine feed;  
Speak truly and each word of thine  
Shall be a faithful seed;  
Live truly and thy life shall be  
A great and noble creed.”

ALFRED S. WARRINER.

*President Northwest Indiana Epworth League,  
Winamac, Ind.*

I would urge them to submit without reserve to Christ, and to consecrate themselves to the service of man under Christ's leadership.

J. J. N. KENNEY.



## THE VALUE OF THINKING

I think I would say to the young people—each one:

1. *Know* yourself through Christ's revelation.
2. *Respect* yourself by His purchase price.
3. *Master* yourself by His grace.
4. *Dedicate* yourself to His service.

Yours ever,                      EDWIN H. HUGHES.  
*San Francisco, Cal.*

Give half an hour each day—morning and evening—to reading God's word and in thinking on the same.                      H. M. DU BOISE.

*General Secretary Epworth League, Methodist Episcopal Church, South.*

If I had the ear of the youth for two minutes *only*, I should give this word for my Master: Jesus' friendship the best thing I have: It is for you if you want it.

*Nashville, Tenn.*              FITZGERALD L. PARKER.

I would do my best to convince them that unless they were cultivating a taste for the enjoyment of the best things of life, and show that there is a delight and satisfaction in fitting themselves for a useful career not found in anything else.                      CHESTEEN SMITH.

*Anderson, Ind.*

## CHAPTER II.

### THE YOUNG MAN AND HIS WAY.

“O! be thou zealous in thy youth;  
Fill every day with noble toils,  
Fight for the victories of truth,  
And deck thee with her deathless spoils.

Then murmur not if toils obscure,  
And thorny paths be thine;  
To God be true—they shall secure  
The joy of life divine.  
Who in the darkest, sternest sphere,  
For Him their powers employ;  
The toils contemned and slighted here  
Shall yield the purest joy.”

—*Edward H. Dewart.*

THE psalmist asks the question in the 119th Psalm, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his ways?” and gives the answer to his own question by declaring: “By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

The inference is, that the ways of men are usually wrong. And this is found to be in harmony with the general tenor of the Scriptures, as indicated in the following texts: Psa. 14:1-3: “The fool hath said in his heart,

## THE YOUNG MAN AND HIS WAY

There is no God. They are corrupt; they have done abominable works; there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God. They are all gone aside; they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Spurgeon said: "He would not deny God if he were not a fool by nature, and, having denied God, it is no wonder that he becomes one by practice." Mark 7:20-23: "And He said, That which cometh out of man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness, all these evil things come from within and defile the man."

In the third chapter of Romans we read: "What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise; for we have proved both Jews and Gentiles that they are all under sin; that they are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not

## THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE

known; there is no fear of God before their eyes."

And in Eph. 2:1-3: "And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and in sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

Young men are not only given great prominence to-day, but they are especially mentioned by at least three of the very prominent writers in the Bible. Christ Himself was a young man and made a young man His bosom companion. Young men are in a very emphatic way the hope of the community, the nation, and the Church. These institutions must be to-morrow very largely what the young men of to-day are. What a responsibility thus comes to young manhood! Not only do the possibilities of the future rest upon the young men of to-day, but they are now determining by the choices they are making what their own futures shall be, as well as the future of others, which they must help to make. Desires, longings, ambitions, and resolutions concerning a clean, pure, ennobling, uplifting life will accomplish nothing, only as they are put into practice. And it is only as you have the strength of will and purpose for present achievements that you can

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have any promise of better things in the future. There must be the taking heed, as well as the hearing.

No true pleasure can be had except by paying the price. And all sinful pleasures, promised without an equivalent in cost, are frauds. Temptations have their power in that they make deceptive promises. These promises have all been protested repeatedly by all who have given them the most thorough trial. In fact, they cost many times their real worth. Notwithstanding the many warnings given, men will not heed. They must try for themselves. They say, "I know the others got caught, but they were not very smart. I am going to keep my eyes open."

You must toil till thoroughly weary before you can appreciate the luxury of rest. Idleness seeks ease without labor. The gambling mania prompts to all kinds of "get - rich - quick" schemes, only to end in disappointment, usually in financial loss, and often in complete disgrace.

Then the money spent for tobacco is worse than wasted. Its use weakens the eyes, wastes the nerves, and makes one an easier prey to worse dissipations.

God has ordained true love between one man and one woman. And He has safeguarded these relations by the visitation of the most

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direful penalties upon those guilty of their violation. Lust tempts to these indulgences, in violation of God's law, at the hazard of one's own well-being, as well as the risk of the awful consequences to posterity. God has put His curse upon this sin of social impurity as upon no other. I quote from Dr. Klepfer: "No other sin is so brutal and degrading. It is bad enough to sin one's self, but to involve another in the sin is diabolical. No other sin so blights the fair image of manhood, and no other binds such fetters of hell. It ruins the body, polluting its blood, weakening its fibers, and destroying its nerves. It transmits its curse to children's children. It renders a man unfit to be the head of a pure home. Underneath the home is the sacredness of the married relation; destroy that and you build your home on the sand." There should be but one law for the man and the woman. Social customs are at fault here. As a rule the guilty man goes free of public censure, while the young woman is ostracised and shunned. More than this, any young man ought to be ashamed to ask the heart and hand of any young woman unless he can offer to her a life just as clean as the one he asks. No man has any right to debauch himself and then ask the hand of a pure girl in marriage. And no man wants any other as a wife.

## THE YOUNG MAN AND HIS WAY

The drink habit is abroad, and the temptation stares young men in the face, and is often thrust upon them in such way as to require manly courage to resist it. What of the results? In the wasted wealth, the ruined homes, the tattered children begging on the streets, the wrecked womanhood eking out an existence over the washtub, the bloated body, the blighted mind, the hopeless grave, and the soul lost eternally, you have the answer.

Whence come all these evil things? "An enemy hath done this." Every sin of the race of men, every temptation to wrongdoing comes from an enemy not only to God, but to yourself. The teachings of this old, yet ever new Book are the only safe guide. God and Christ and the Church are your best friends. Everything contrary to these is your foe.

We are on a journey. We can only make it once. We can not retrace our steps to make a single correction. How important that we be careful. God's Word is the only authoritative chart. It says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." All intervening history and the experience of all ages corroborates the truth and wisdom of these requirements. Some one says, "Why can we

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not have a good time, sow our wild oats, and then repent and be saved?" I answer: Why don't men do it? Experience has proved that the chances are very greatly against such a course. In all vocations in life, men must make careful preparation in order to succeed. The future physician, lawyer, or statesman must prepare now for his career. He must apply himself now to study and preparation. Then comes the possibility of the practice. So if God and heaven and eternal life be absolute verities and if it be true that heaven is as certainly prepared for those who prepare for it, as the opportunity to practice medicine or surgery, to say nothing of a successful practice thereof, depends on thorough preparation, how important that we prepare for heaven by the study and practice of the principles laid down in the only Text-Book ever given to point out the way to accomplish that preparation. What would you think of the lawyer who would say: "Yes, I intend to practice law, but I do not care anything about law books. I do not intend to put into practice any of the principles taught in the law schools." Or what of the physician who would say: "I do not care anything about the knowledge of medicine as taught in the text-books. I do not care what others have said about diseases and their remedies. Yes, I am going to practice medi-



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cine, but I am going contrary to all teaching and all past experience."

Then what shall we think of the young man who says: "Yes, I want to be a man among men, but I will not be governed by the precepts of the Bible nor the experiences of other men in the past." New civil laws are being enacted and old ones repealed from time to time. The practice of medicine is constantly changing. Within the lifetime of a practitioner customs entirely reverse themselves. The medical schools teach to-day the administration of remedies and practices that a generation ago were thought to be necessarily fatal. But here where the soul of man is at stake the Text-Book is infallible. It never has and never will be changed. You can rely upon it with absolute assurance. What shall be said of those who ignore such a remedy?

Just as the heathen Korean impresses the fact upon the mind of her young manhood that to live without religion puts one on a level with birds and beasts, and puts special emphasis on the teaching, so we need to emphasize to the young manhood of our Christian America, that instead of it being a dishonor, a disgrace to be a Christian, it is the highest possible honor. No young man need be ashamed to hold up his head and look the whole world in the face and say: "I believe in God the Father

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Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in His Son, our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the resurrection of the body and everlasting life;" because that allies him with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; with the angels who, as the messengers of God, do His will; with "the spirits of just men made perfect," who, having been redeemed by His blood, are round the throne an innumerable throng which no man can number; and with the best men on earth, with the best society that this earth can afford.

As young people, you are called to leadership. The fact that you are young, coupled with the demands of the age and the opportunities afforded to young manhood, cries out for your leadership. You can not escape the responsibility. You must lead your associates. They are full of vitality and vigor. They are full of ambition and adventure. This energetic activity must find outlet. Rightly directed it makes them a power for good, a tower of strength. Turned into channels of evil, it not only sweeps others to destruction, but finally results in the wreck and ruin of themselves.

In order to this leadership, you need that your whole life be so subdued to Christ and so in love with Him, with His plans, pur-

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poses, and work as to dread that which would blot your character, stain your life, or mar your influence, and at the same time have a zeal for service that will send you out as His ambassador, beseeching men in His name and in His stead, "Be ye reconciled to God."

Some refuse the remedy on the plea that they are not ready to settle down to a life that forbids having a good time. God is not austere and censorious. He is not a tyrant. A joyful, cheerful life is the natural, lawful, and legitimate heritage of the Christian young man. God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. No really good thing ever came from any other source. In His service there is not only rich rewards, but joy for evermore. Paul said to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice." The emphasis is on "always." And to the Thessalonians he said, "Rejoice evermore."

Billy Bray, the Cornish preacher, was always rejoicing, frequently aloud. He said: "As I go along the street, I lift up one foot, and it seems to say 'glory;' and I lift up the other and it seems to say 'Amen;' and they keep on like that all the time I walk." He visited a dying man who said to him: "Mr. Bray, I am so happy, if I had the power I'd shout

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'Glory!'" "Ha, mon," said Billy, "what a pity it was thou didst not shout 'glory' when thou hadst the power."

Religion is not intended to make you long-faced. You do not need a funereal expression in order to be righteous. A cheerless, joyless Christian is a misnomer. It is a matter of duty for the Christian to be joyous. There is something wrong with your profession of religion if it does not bring you joy and gladness. The blues may come from a disordered stomach, but not from the heart filled with the love of God. It is not sinful to take legitimate exercise in any of the sports of the day, provided they are free from ruffianism, gambling, and Sabbath desecration. Any sport, recreation, or amusement that will strengthen your body, give alertness to your mind and temperance to your judgment, that will drive meanness out and help to put the love of a clean life in, is all right. These things must be kept in bounds as demanded by humane principles, the rights of our fellow-men and the claims of God.

Be a boy! Be a young man! Let the powers and capacities of your young life manifest themselves, but let that manifestation be tempered with wisdom. In your exuberance of joy, remember that all these powers are God-given. Let all the pleasures of this life, fired

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by all the zeal of this vigorous nature of yours, be in subordination to the divine Master. Let all these opportunities afforded to you, as so many proofs of God's wisdom, in His thoughtful provision for your needs, be accepted with devout thanksgiving and used without abuse for your own good and His glory.

Remember that any scheme of pleasure or rejoicing that contemplates only a fraction of the life or segment of the being, is dangerous and delusive.

A musician may draw forth pretty tones from a single string, but only the richest music can be brought out when he employs the full force of the whole instrument; when all the strings of a given chord vibrate in harmony. So all great joys must play upon all the emotions of the soul. You may play upon one string of the soul, one line of joyful emotion and get a surface delight, a transient joy, a momentary gratification. It is only when the complexity of the emotions of the soul are reached, when you go down and up and out till you reach the depths and heights and lengths and breadths of real soul life, that you can enjoy an emotion that is worth the while of an immortal being. The one is the lightning's flash—the will o' the wisp; the other is the sunlight permanent and durable.

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Real joy is not the transient, superficial, trivial emotion merely playing on the surface of the soul, to flee and leave the darkness more intolerable than before. It is the "recreation of the judgment, the jubilee of the reason," the outgoings of some actual good that has come into the life, that fills the soul with real satisfaction and so leaves its imprint that it becomes harder to do the wrong and easier to do the right.

Let us rejoice with the return of spring, with its wealth of beauty, its prodigality of verdure and blossom; rejoice with the autumn, laden with its rich fruitage of harvest; rejoice with the new-born soul as he exclaims, "Though Thou wast angry with me, Thine anger is turned away and Thou comfortest me." Rejoice with the aged pilgrim as he sings:

"My latest sun is sinking fast,  
My race is nearly run;  
My strongest trials now are past,  
My triumph is begun.  
O come, angel band, come and around  
me stand,  
O bear me away on your snowy wings,  
To my immortal home."

The greatest, the highest possible joy, is to have one's name written in heaven. It was certainly a source of marvelous joy when the

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seventy returned from their successful mission and reported their work with the climax that even the demons were subject unto them. Jesus said, "Rejoice not that the spirits are subject unto you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Is the remedy named sufficient to keep as well as to cleanse the way? We answer yes, without any hesitation; for we read 2 Cor. 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." And in Eph. 4:7, "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

"But man He made of angel form erect,  
To hold communion with the heavens above,  
And on his soul impressed His image fair,  
His own similitude of holiness,  
Of virtue, truth and love; with reason high  
To balance right and wrong, and conscience  
quick  
To choose or to reject; with knowledge great,  
Prudence and wisdom, vigilance and strength,  
To guard all force or guile; and last of all,  
The highest gift of God's abundant grace,  
With perfect, free, unbiased will. Thus man  
Was made upright, immortal made, and  
The King of all."

—*Robert Pollock.*

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“The only thing to do with wild oats is to put them carefully into the hottest part of the fire and get them burnt to dust, every seed of them. If you sow them, no matter in what ground, up they will come with long, tough roots like couch grass, and luxuriant stalks and leaves.”

—*Tom Hughes.*

I would urge them to be merry, but with an undercurrent of seriousness; to get into vital touch with Jesus Christ by a personal experience of His love and grace; to identify themselves with some definite religious work where they would have some personal responsibility; to look at life from the standpoint of Christ who taught that to serve and not to seek for it, was to find the pathway to happiness. Then I would urge them to keep eye, and ear, and soul open to the joys of life, and especially to the beauties of nature, in sky and star, in mountain and valley, in lake and stream, in meadow and woodland. If these things are done, it will mean a sunny, happy nature, whose chief pleasure will be found in those spiritual qualities that will not fail

“When the sun grows old,  
And the leaves of the judgment book  
unfold.”

G. A. WARBURTON,

*Railroad Branch of the Young Men's Christian  
Association of the City of New York.*

I should hardly know how to answer the question you propound. It seems to me, however, that I would not go very far wrong if I



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should say to the young man whose ear I should have only for a moment or two, that the fundamental virtues, truth, purity, genuineness of character would make possible all else; but without these there could be no foundation upon which to build. If one does not ring true in his character, there is no chance for a religious life that is worth while, and certainly no chance for those qualities which go with the religion of Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely,            E. L. POWELL.  
*Louisville, Ky.*

Three things, young men, which will never fail: God's personal pledge to Christian men; a discreet Christian wife will do you good, not ill, all her days; the end of the perfect man is *peace*. Strive for these.

FRED M. STONE,  
*Endowment Secretary American University,*  
*Washington, D. C.*

Every man's problem is how to be effective. None but workers are worth while, no matter whether we toil with mind or muscle at the tasks which our mutual needs bring to each of us. The well-earned dollar is a wise dollar; the badly gotten dollar is a foolish dollar. Neglect God; care nothing for other people; despise your work—and wealth will buy you nothing but misery. All the happiness this life affords is found in three things: First, a true relation to God; second, the care of other people; third, the doing with all your might work which you love to do.

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God has made an investment in each one of us. Shall we go to Him when our life is done giving no return upon that investment? He means that you shall pay Him dividends in the betterment of the world and helpfulness to your fellow-men. Appreciate and praise the good work of others. You thus strengthen, encourage, and happify your own life, and fortify your spirit for your own battles. My enemy must do all the hating. I have no time for hatred. Every one of us should condemn bad work and rebuke the bad workman. Jesus only scourged hypocrites with words of wrath. Let your life, not your words, be your rebuke of slander. As a mere matter of practical success in life, as a mere method of making the most out of himself, I would rather have a son, brother, or friend become a thoroughgoing Christian than to have any other single good fortune come to him.

*Get your Christianity into your blood.* It is the soul of man, the noblest thing in all the universe to which the Christian religion speaks. It is to lift ever upward the soul of man that all the world's saints, statesmen, and heroes have prayed and thought and perished. It is to make free and give wings to the soul of man that Christian civilization exists. That men and women shall be better, nobler every day; that happiness shall be greater; that our country and the world shall steadily become a lovelier place to live in; that righteousness shall prevail is, after all, the purpose of all progress.

ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE.

*Washington, D. C.*

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My message would be: First, work hard and get an education. Live an outdoor life; obey your father and mother; make money honestly and spend it freely; and above all things, be a man of principle. Keep away from saloons, gambling houses, and other disreputable places. Never do a thing that you would be ashamed to look your mother in the face and tell her you had done.

I am yours truly,      D. A. BALL.

*Louisiana, Mo.*

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. Go about doing good. Seek not the unattainable. Honestly, courageously, and conscientiously discharge the duties of any position in which you find yourself placed. Then men will say, "Friend, come up higher." Take the parable of the good Samaritan, too, as the rule of life, and strive to make the world better and happier.

CHAMP CLARK.

*Washington, D. C.*

My message to young men would be: Accept Christ as your senior partner (if you have not already done so); join the Church of your choice; associate with good people; keep away from saloons and all other demoralizing associations; form the habit of keeping every appointment; observe the rules of health, and "keep sweet."

Very sincerely,

GEORGE WARREN BROWN.

*St. Louis, Mo.*

## THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE

NOTE.—The following six messages are from "The Young Man's Best Friends," by permission of the author, Dr. George M. Klepfer.

I would say to every young man: This is the age, and this the best epoch in that age, the world has ever seen. There never was a better time for you to do your best. Value the opportunity you have. The world's work needs you. In it you will find a place worthy your highest effort and ambition.

Be thoughtful, earnest, industrious, manly. Be full of the idea that there is something to do which you can do better than any one else. Seek and find that work and do it. Put into it the energies of your life. Learn to feel your need of Divine guidance. Read the Old Book. Seek its inside meaning. Find in it the guide of your life. Learn to avoid sporting and frivolous companions. Those who seek pastime as their daily need. Life is too serious for such people. Time is too valuable to be rightly used by those who would seek a means of wasting its golden sands.

THOS. H. MURRAY.

*Clearfield, Pa.*

Develop your will to the highest degree of strength and pertinacity. Direct all the forces of your will into a wise channel of Christian living, thus assuring yourself of the greatest possible success in everything in life for which it is worth living.

RUSSEL H. CONWELL.

*The Baptist Temple,  
Philadelphia.*

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Be absolutely true to your best selves, and remember that no one who is perfectly true to himself can ever be false to God or to his fellow-men.

ARMORY H. BRADFORD.

*First Congregational Church,  
Montclair, N. J.*

Young man, build for yourself a character. Be pure, upright, and honorable in every act of life. Avoid the most powerful factor the devil has for the destruction of young men, viz., the modern saloon. Treat every other man's sister with the same consideration and respect you would your own; and employ your leisure moments in reading pure, good, instructive books, not forgetting to read daily "The Book of Books."

CHARLES GEESEY.

*Altoona, Pa.*

I think that I should deem myself giving them the most profitable advice if I should say that a young man's best friends, and his best guides to usefulness, are an unsullied conscience, a sincere belief in God, and an unselfish love of country.

Yours very truly,

*Princeton, N. J.* GROVER CLEVELAND.

I should urge them, first of all, and most of all, to be real, and to value religion as giving them, in the person and work of Jesus Christ, a divine example of reality, courage, and fearlessness in the service of their fellow-men.

"The scribes and Pharisees" still "sit in Moses' seat;" and the Church needs to learn,

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as, alas! it is sadly forgetting, the habit of courageous utterance.

And then again, help your young men to recognize that they do not need to be "coddled." The pose of the Church toward young men, as distinct from young women, is a trifle maudlin.

A young man needs the Christian religion more than the Church needs him.

Very faithfully yours,

*New York City.*

HENRY C. POTTER.

### CHAPTER III.

#### A YOUNG WOMAN'S OFFERING.

“The costly chrism, in snowy stone,  
A gracious odor sends.  
Her little hoard, so slowly grown,  
In one full act she spends.  
She breaks the box, the honored thing!  
And down its riches pour;  
Her priestly hands anoint her King,  
To reign for evermore.”

—*George Macdonald.*

IN the 14th chapter of Mark we have the record of a feast at the house of Simon, the leper. Lazarus had been raised from the dead, and his sisters had much to do with this feast. Lazarus sat at the table, and Martha, true to her nature, proved her love by serving. Jesus manifested His interest in and sympathy for those who mourned the loss of loved ones; and when occasion offered, He gave His sanction and presence to the rightful social pleasures of life as well.

A little while before this Jesus had gone away from Jerusalem because of the effort made to take His life, and while away Lazarus had

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sickened and died. He spoke of it to His disciples, and in the face of danger they returned to Bethany. He did not seek opposition and persecution, but when duty called He faced danger and death without flinching.

Martha went out to meet Him, and voiced the deep-seated anguish of her soul in the statement, "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." At the same time she did not complain nor utter any censure for His absence. He led her up to the acknowledgment of His Messiahship. Yet there was that degree of anxious care about her that hindered that free communion, that intimacy of fellowship which was afforded to many. There is much to admire in Martha. She had no doubt seen much of Christ's power as manifested in the miracles He performed. Her faith responded to Christ's declarations and then at His request she told Mary, "The Master is come and calleth for thee." Mary responded quickly and prostrated herself at His feet in the attitude of a learner, the attitude of humility, prayer, trust, submission, and desire to be taught.

It is blessed to meet Christ anywhere, but thrice blessed to meet Him by His special invitation. He had a very important lesson for these sisters, and their blessing was in pro-



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portion to their appreciation and appropriation of that message.

As certainly as Jesus called for Mary, He calls to the young womanhood of to-day for their *affection* and service. *This is* a call to *both* devotion and service. A call to leave sin, with all its fascination and consequences, and accept salvation.

Just as certainly as Christ calls young men to leadership, He calls the young womanhood of the day to special leadership. You have a position in the world not given to womanhood in any previous age, and the standing and prestige thus thrust upon you gives you opportunity, and here, as elsewhere, opportunity is largely the measure of responsibility.

You have not only the leadership as teachers in the public school and Sunday school, but in society as well. You have an unmeasured influence over the lives of the young men of your association. And they have so many temptations to meet that they need your help in the struggle to decide for the right and to maintain the integrity of Christian character.

Be sure that you stand firm for your Christian convictions of righteousness in all your associations with young men, in your conversation, in your forms of recreation, and in the places to which you accompany them.

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Be aggressive in all manner of good deeds, in all well-doing. This call is authoritative, sincere, and continuous. It comes to every one from the Master, the Teacher. He stands ready, not only to save from sin, but to lift heavy burdens and to comfort sorrowing hearts.

There is a preparation necessary to fit you for life's work, and no part of it is more important than to sit at Jesus' feet. Who can imagine the tender revelations made to Mary that eventful day? Who can predict what marvelous revelations He will still give to those who patiently, trustingly place themselves in the attitude of learners.

The first cry was, "Lord, if Thou hadst been here." So we still interpose our little ifs. While on this visit Jesus manifested His divine power, yet He never more fully demonstrated His humanity than here. There is but One who has the tenderness of the human and the power of the divine. Cling to Him as your own loving, compassionate, Almighty Savior, that in the bosom of His sympathy you may safely repose and be sustained in all trials, afflictions, and sorrows by His everlasting arms.

Why is it that when He gives so much to enjoy and is so tender and compassionate, that so many are anxious for the forbidden things,

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knowing their tendency to danger and destruction? Mary sat at Jesus' feet and He poured His soul secrets into her soul until the fire of her love burned in desire to give Him honor that should in some measure adequately compensate the blessing bestowed.

This feast gave the longed-for opportunity, and while the guests reclined at the table, she came with her costly offering, brake the box and, by her magnanimous deed, anointed His head and feet with the precious ointment.

The disciples were indignant; ached with vexation. Judas finally voiced the discontent by saying, "Why was this waste of the ointment made?" No doubt Mary expected that the disciples would be pleased by the manifestation of her love and devotion for the Master, and would be naturally disappointed and discouraged by the critical complaint. How quickly all this was changed by the commendation of Jesus! These Galilean disciples were not used to such expressions of appreciation and could not understand it. Doubtless they honestly thought Christ would have been better pleased had the ointment been sold and the money distributed among the poor. But they misjudged. They had no appreciation of His soul hunger. For more than three years He had been "going about doing good." In it all

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He has been misunderstood, misjudged, and misrepresented. He has tried so hard and in so many ways to get even His chosen disciples to understand something of the character of His mission, without avail. What an oasis this event in a life so barren of appreciation and comfort! Was the gift too much, the offering too great? No; Christ deserves the best we have or can procure. No gift is too good, no sacrifice too great.

The world would be richer in enjoyment if there were more expressions of appreciation. It has been said that we are a peculiar people in that if we like a thing, we never say a word about it, but if the preaching or singing, or whatever it be, does not please us, we are not slow to let it be known. Rosewood or metallic caskets and costly floral offerings will not atone for past neglect. Those who do their best and follow the Master closely will be led to do things the resultant rewards of which will greatly astonish them, and they will cry out with surprise, "When saw we Thee an hungered, or thirsty, or in prison, and ministered unto Thee?"

Still the cry is raised, "Why this waste?" Why should so much time and effort be given to the Church in her various departments? Some, in their grasp after the utilitarian things

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of this world, would even destroy all excessive bloom in the interest of greater fruitage. Why so much of my means go to its support? Why go to Sunday school, preaching and Epworth League meeting on Sunday, and prayer meeting during the week? Because you need it to gain strength for life's duties, and none need it more than the women, who have to perform the drudgery; the same thing over and over again day after day. A great and busy man once said, "I need an hour every day for prayers, because I have so much to do."

Take another view of it: You are a member of the Church. You neglect many of the means of grace. The precious ointment of opportunity is given you and you neglect to use it. You not only fail to sit at His feet to learn of Him, but you also fail to anoint Him with your love and service.

A holy life is as perfume poured forth. Godly living, an intimate acquaintance with God's Word will not only help you to meet and overcome temptation, but will give you an influence for good over the lives of others.

The means of grace, the preaching may not be up to your ideal of excellence, yet these are God's chosen methods and He honors them. Spurgeon, with his giant intellect, heard all the noted ministers of London, but received neither

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light on the plan of salvation nor help in his search for soul rest. He finally went to hear an obscure, illiterate Wesleyan Methodist local preacher, and he made the way of faith so clear that Spurgeon went his way rejoicing in the experience of sins forgiven.

How dare you waste these opportunities? These Sabbath days and Wednesday nights when Jesus has invited you to meet Him and sit at His feet and learn of Him?

It may be that you are not even a professed Christian. Then all of life so far has been wasted. You have made no preparation for the life that now is nor for that which is to come. You have not laid up a single treasure in heaven. The golden moments of life freighted with opportunities of richest possibility are rapidly passing away. I beseech of you to improve the time.

An occasional gift, like that which Mary gave, and constant extravagance are two very different things. This act judged by the immediate moment and conditions may have seemed extravagant and blameworthy, but considered in the light of the whole perspective, it was beautiful in the extreme.

Jesus quickly came to her rescue when the unmerited blame was heaped upon her, saying, "Let her alone; she hath wrought a good work

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upon Me." A deed noble and loving. A deed that prompted the Master to pronounce the highest possible eulogy He could give: "She hath done what she could." "She is come aforehand to anoint Me to my burial." Was she conscious of that fact when she was performing the deed? If so, how did she know, when did she secure the knowledge, unless while sitting at His feet? Costly as was the ointment, the love that prompted the gift was evidently more highly prized by the Master. He looked down into Mary's innermost soul and saw all the depth and fullness of her love. He thus looks into your soul to-day and sees all your affection, or want of it, as the case may be.

It has been well said that nature reveals her secrets only to her lovers. One must be in love with music before being able to give expression to its highest raptures. One must be in love with art before being able to put heart-throbs on canvas. One not in love with music may finger the keys with mechanical skill, but few will care to listen to it. One not in love with art may paint pictures and carve statuary that but few will admire or care to buy. One not in love with literature may write books, but few will care to read them.

The story is told of an artist, that he called a friend into his studio to see a painting of

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Christ. After gazing at it for a time, the friend, with tear-dimmed eyes, said, "How you must have loved Him to paint Him like that!" The artist replied, "Yes, I do love Him, and when I love Him more, I will paint Him better." Is it any wonder Christ reveals Himself to His lovers? Dear reader, do you ask, "What can I do?" You can bring the undivided affection of your heart to Him, and as you place yourself unreservedly at His service, the Holy Spirit and your own good common sense will suggest methods and opportunities of demonstration.

I read not long since of a Sunday school teacher who vividly described Jesus being crowned with thorns during the progress of His trial. Soon after, she saw one of the girls in her class making a wreath of fine flowers. When asked what she was doing, she replied, "I am making Jesus a wreath of flowers." Sister, see to it that yours is a wreath of flowers and not a crown of thorns.

" 'Tis woman's to nourish affection's tree,  
And its fruit domestic bliss shall be;  
'Tis hers to culture with patient toil  
Each heaven-born plant in the heart's  
deep soil;  
And fruits and flowers her toil shall greet,  
Richest flavors and odors on earth that  
meet.



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“ 'T is woman's to fashion the infant mind,  
To kindle its thoughts, and its hopes  
unbind;  
To guide its young wing in its earliest flight,  
And lure it to worlds of unsullied light;  
To teach him to sing in his gladsome hours,  
Of a Savior's love, with an angel's powers!

“ 'T is woman's to bind the broken heart,  
And soften the bleeding spirit's smart;  
With the balm that in Gilead's garden  
grows,  
With the stream that from Calvary's  
fountain flows;  
And to light in this world of sin and pain  
The lamp of love and of joy again.”

—*Unknown.*

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In replying to your letter, I would say that there is so much to be said to young women that it is hard to condense it into two minutes; but I will venture to give you this message: “Be true to your God, your country, and yourselves; make no compromise with evil by countenancing and practicing small vices.”

Very sincerely yours,  
*Washington, D. C.* MRS. JOHN A. LOGAN.

Having accepted Christ as your personal Savior, begin building up a holy character by walking not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standing in the way of sinners, nor sitting in the seat of the scornful, but finding your delight in the law of the Lord. (1st Psalm). Fund your every ransomed power of body, mind, and

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soul, and then bring them to bear upon the things that will stand the light and test of eternity. Study to have at least three lines of holy ambitions. (1) Cultivate the companionship and friendship of noble Christian people from whom you can learn how to live an upper-tier life, seeking "First the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." (2) Borrow, buy, read, and study good books; especially biographies and histories of holy men and women, and such heroic missionaries as William Carey, Alexander Duff, Henry Martyn, Robert Morrison, David Livingstone, Robert Moffatt, John G. Paton, Allen Gardner, John Williams, William Butler, James and Isabella Thoburn, and many others. (3) Remember, "God gives His best to those who will take it; His second best to those who will not take His best."

So seek the richest of spiritual things; feed your soul upon the Word of God; in it are treasures of wisdom, grace and glory.

"The word in the Book is gold in the mine:  
The Word in the heart is purse-carried  
coin."

Then let your consecration to the Lord and His cause mean as much to you as did Nehemiah's to him when Sanballat sought to entice him away from the Lord's work. He—grand old man that he was—replied four times over: "I am doing a great work, so that I can not come down." If to-day young Christians, when enticed of the world, the flesh, and the devil, would have holy courage enough to reply as Nehemiah did, Paul's ideal Church would

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soon appear, "A glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing."

Be in full, sweet sympathy with Jesus' plans for the redemption of the world. Be giants in Christ-likeness in this line. Get God's great thought into your hearts, the world for Christ; and then, with open Bible, find out in your closets God's plan for your life. As He leads then do, either to go or help to go. Pray, work, and give on a large scale. Build up a character and personality that will be an inspiration and uplift to other young people. We, as children of the Most High belong to a family of large possibilities. Work out these possibilities to the highest notch, and thus prove to the world that we are real and royal children of the King of kings.

ELIZABETH PEARSON.

*Des Moines, Iowa.*

My message to young women? Choose the best! The best education and equipment for service; the best associates, the best works. Study to have the proper estimate of the eternal value of things. Life may be full of good things, but strive for the best. A dear friend recently went to the heavenly world. She had culture of mind and heart, a university education, with rare gift of speech. With ease and grace would she have presided over a woman's club; a Browning study would to her have been a delight. But, placing the eternal value upon service, she chose rather to give herself to the teaching of sixty and more children, every Saturday, the beautiful truths of the Bible, and with unusual skill instilling into

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little hearts that will never die, but blossom and bear fruit in eternity.

Every month she presided over a woman's missionary society, instructing, inspiring, helping women in Christian America, but better yet, sending light and salvation to those who have not heard of Jesus. The best possible service, because so greatly needed.

Plenty there are who can do the good things, but few who can do the best. Strive for the best.

Hoping these words may be of some help to your young women, I am,

Cordially yours,

*Lincoln, Neb.*

ELLA M. WATSON.

If you care for a message from one with whom you are unacquainted, but who loves and believes in girls, I will say: Measure up to your own high ideal of a noble woman. Keep your standard of character for a boy and a man just as high as you do for a girl or woman, and more men and boys will reach it. To quote the words of more than one young man to me, "A fellow will do anything for his girl." Strike from your list of friends every young man who will not totally abstain from the use of liquor and cigarettes. (I would like to say all tobacco.) Remember, "No nation rises higher than its women," and determine to help make America, the greatest nation in all the world, the nation that will eventually lead all the nations of the earth up to the Great White Throne and Him that sitteth thereon.

Learn that a thoroughly consecrated girl

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who knows what the power of the parlor means, can wield a larger influence than she will ever have through the ballot box.

Go through the world thinking Christ's thoughts, speaking Christ's words, and smiling Christ's smiles, and your lives will bless and be blessed.

Your very cordial friend,  
*Pittsburgh, Pa.* EMMA A. FOWLER.

Having recently completed a trip around the world, and having seen in various stages the degradation of women in all lands where there is no open Bible, I appreciate as never before the privilege of women's life in this favored land. My message to the womanhood of America is this: Find out what you owe to Christ and the gospel; "Forget not His benefits," and as "Freely ye have received, freely give."

Responsibility is commensurate with privilege, and to the women of Christian lands is given the opportunity and the duty to lift up their oppressed and despairing sisters to the privileges we ourselves enjoy.

"Until the Lord have given your sisters rest as He hath given you" (Joshua 1:15), we are not discharged from the battle. Job, of sacred lore, justified himself before his Maker in the declaration, "Neither have I eaten my morsel alone." May we, by His grace, be enabled to claim like justification before Him!

Jesus looked with compassion upon the hungry multitudes whom He fed with the luncheon of a little lad. Alas! has not the Church ever since been content to bring to His wonder-working power but "two loaves and a few small

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fishes," when His message is, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse; prove Me; see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing such as ye can not contain?"

The success of missions is dependent not more upon the faithfulness of the missionary than upon the faithfulness of our stewardship.

Very sincerely yours,

*New Rochelle, N. Y.*

KATE L. STONE.

This is the message I would give to young women: Let us try to avoid narrowness and pettishness, and let us strive after the large-minded and heroic. Never to seek our own—the things which the heart of youth naturally covets—but always the will of God for us, and the path of perfect obedience and acquiescence. This is liberty. This is joy.

Practically, there never was a time when there was such a demand for the service of young women in Church and philanthropic, home and foreign missionary work as now. Why should we not be fitting ourselves for such forms of usefulness, rather than seeking business and lucrative professions, which are already overcrowded, and where we will take the place, perhaps, upon which some other girl is dependent for a livelihood? Let us get out of the way of other people and take the position where our services are in demand and in which there is greatest development and greatest reward.

Wishing you success.

Cordially yours, WINIFRED SPALDING,  
*Secretary Young Women's Work, W. F. M. S.,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.*

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Your letter of the 29th inst. arrived in due time. As I read the question you have asked me to answer, these words came to me, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all things shall be added unto you." So, I would say the first thing for a young woman to do is to "get right with God."

Second, if she seeks to help bring the Kingdom of God on the earth, it means an interest in the whole wide world; so I would say seek for as good an education as possible, that you may be your very best in His service. And then I would add an extract from Phillips Brooks on "Duty:" "This truth comes to us more and more the longer we live, that on what field or in what uniform or with what aims we do our duty, matters little, or even what our duty is, great or small, splendid or obscure. Only to find our duty certainly and somewhere or somehow, to do it faithfully, makes us good, strong, happy, and useful, and tunes our lives into some feeble echo of the life of God."

I thank you for the privilege you have given to thus speak to the young women of your congregation, and I pray that God's richest blessings may be with you in your efforts to win the girls for Him.

Most sincerely yours,  
*Chicago, Ill.* JULIA H. FOWLER.

Your note at hand. First, tell the young women not to delay one hour the giving of their hearts and lives to the Lord Jesus Christ; *i. e.*, to seek *first* the Kingdom and hold it as the first interest of their lives.

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Second, tell the young women to *keep close* in affection and sympathy to their mothers, and, incidentally, to spend more time in the *companionship* of their mothers than they are now spending in that way.

Third, tell them to secure a thorough education in a college sustained by the Church—*their own Church*. They will then learn incidentally much of their own Church and its leaders that they will miss otherwise.

Fourth, tell them to cultivate quietness of voice and manner on the street and in all public places, and to avoid the use of even attractive slang.

Fifth, tell them to settle it now, and adhere to their decision hereafter that they will never marry an irreligious young man. I sincerely hope that many of the young people may be profited by the good things you may say to them.

Sincerely,

*Des Moines, Iowa.* MARY T. THOMPSON.

MY DEAR BROTHER ANDERSON:

Your letter of the 12th inst. did not receive the attention which it deserved because of my absence on vacation. I fear that it is now too late for you to use any material which I might send, but at a venture, let me say that if I had a chance to speak to the "young womanhood of this country for two minutes," I would say two things: First, "Do not enter into competition with men, or be rivals of men in any way." This would apply to the work-side of life. And the second thing I would say would be this:



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"Fit yourselves for such positions as women can fill vastly better than men, of which there are a great number." Under both of these heads I should probably make some statements concerning the influence, direct or indirect, of cultured Christian womanhood, and make a plea for the recognition of those gifts and graces which women only possess.

Wishing for you every success in your work,  
I am, Sincerely yours,

E. A. NOBLE.

*President "The Woman's College,"  
Baltimore, Md.*

Your request has been before me on my desk since its receipt, but I have been unable to reply before this, and even now I shrink from giving any special message for your young people, as I am not at all accustomed to doing this kind of work. I can say, however, that as an organization of the Church, we are seriously studying the problem of how to interest our young women, who must soon take the places of us older ones who can not much longer continue this active service.

Some time ago my eye fell on words like these, "Hers was merely one of a million lives in which man could find no fault and God no fruit." I would beg our young women to seek to make their lives fruit-bearing, not simply passive, good, faultless lives, but aggressive, earnest, useful lives, full of a desire to bring others to a knowledge of the blessed Master. To achieve this, I would urge them to enter into this work through the various organizations of the Church

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which are seeking to spread the news of the gospel at home and abroad. My message may be too long, but my heart longs most earnestly to see our own young women seriously at work for the Master. Very truly yours,

*Boston, Mass.*

MARY E. HOLT.

## CHAPTER IV.

### A YOUNG MAN'S REWARD.

"He's come! he's come! the father said;  
Bring forth the robe, the signet ring;  
My son now liveth who was dead;  
Rejoice with me; rejoice and sing!"  
—*Robert Maguire.*

IN the 15th chapter of Luke, we have, among other parables, that familiarly known as the parable of "The Prodigal Son." There are, in fact, three parables closely linked together.

The parable of "The Lost Sheep" relates to the office and work of the Son; that of "The Lost Money" relates to the office and work of the Holy Spirit; and that of "The Lost Son" to the office and special interest of the Father in the world's redemption.

We find here the description of the course of a young man who grew tired of the restraints of home, was eager to see the world, went out to have a good time, and spent his time and money in riotous living. That means the utmost abandonment of one's self to dissipation and its results.

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We get our word "sot" from the same root from which the word "riotous" is derived. When this man's money was gone, he joined—literally glued—himself to a citizen of that far-off land. After feeding swine for a time, he finally came to himself and, after a severe inward struggle, went back home.

This parable might be spoken as fittingly in the twentieth century as it was in the first, and is as applicable in America to-day as it was in Palestine then.

Let us notice in passing that this young man belonged to a well-to-do family, and that there was seemingly no ground for discontent.

Sin makes men believe that they are fairly good and know a great deal. Sin deceives by causing men to compare themselves with others just a little worse than themselves. The devil never suggested to a sinner that he compare himself with some pure saint of God. Hence men are constantly making false and unfair comparisons. The only fair comparison between the Church and the world is to take the average Church member and the average sinner and institute your comparison between them. Or, if you insist on taking the best sinner, then take the best saint, or the reverse. If you insist on the meanest Church members, then be fair; take the meanest sinners for your comparison,

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Sin deceives men by making them believe they can manage for themselves better than others can for them. It makes men dissatisfied with their surroundings, puffs them up as being independent in the doing of wrong deeds, gives a misconception of bravery and heroism, and especially deceives as to the results that are to follow in all these things.

Every wrong-doing is a seed sown that must produce a harvest of its own kind. And there is only one possible way of escape from it: that is, through bitter tears of repentance and possibly by necessary restitution as well.

The father in this story let his son have his own way. And God often allows wicked men not only to have their own way, but in many instances allows them to prosper in that way for a season. Indeed, you may flatter yourself for a time that you are getting along all right without God.

The world has pleasures which give present delight and generally these do not forsake men suddenly. It is only by slow and almost imperceptible degrees that a man comes to the level of craving the food of swine.

The sinner starts out to use the world as his servant, to make it minister to his pleasure. Universal experience is that it gradually makes him its servant, its slave to do its lowest drudgery.

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There is only one avenue of escape from this, and that is to turn to God for help. God never intended that man should live on food meant only for swine. He does not mean that the soul of man shall be satisfied by the gratification of mere animal appetites and passions.

This young man found there were worse places than home. False modesty and false pride kept him for a time from returning to the welcome and reward that awaited him.

The temptations to evil-doing are flattering, yet those who have tested them most thoroughly, testify that they are deceptive. The devil is a poor paymaster. He has never fulfilled a promise, never intended to do so. He is a deceiver, a liar, and the father of lies. What can any one possibly hope as the reward for service rendered to such a master? Your soul was not created for such service, and therefore can not be satisfied with such things, and they must inevitably prove disappointing in the end. How many men have vainly regretted the loss of wasted opportunities! How many who have been successful from a worldly standpoint, would gladly give all they possess for another chance when it is too late! But it can not be had. Why will men persist in what they know will end in disappointment?

A prominent and successful business man

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once said to the writer: "I am immersed in business, and I do not suppose that any one gives me credit for a thought of anything save the almighty dollar. But, candidly before God, I would give every dollar I possess, enter into contract to go half-clad and half-fed the remainder of my days, if that would insure the eternal salvation of my soul."

You have read the story of the rich brewer, who adopted a four-year-old orphaned nephew, and idolized him as he grew up. He offered the boy a trip to Europe, intimating that on his return he should be placed in the brewing business. The offer was promptly declined and the uncle given to understand that the boy would never engage in that business. The uncle, in a rage, said: "Go! All obligation between you and me is at an end. Find the miserable clerkship you prefer and support yourself as soon as possible." The young man wrote in his note-book:

"What though the mast be now blown  
overboard,  
The cable broke, the holding anchor lost,  
And half our soldiers swallowed in the flood?  
Yet lives our Pilot still."—*Shakespeare*.

He underscored the word "pilot," and wrote the word "conscience" on the margin.

He secured a position, was economical, and

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laid by a little money. By and by the brewery burned. The insurance policy had lapsed and unwise investments swept the balance away, leaving the old uncle in want. The nephew provided for him. A little later the uncle said, with a husky voice: "Len, the man who obeys his Pilot's voice, promptly and unswervingly, as you did, not only saves his own life from shipwreck, but he may help some struggling craft which has disregarded orders, to reach harbor at last."

Evil-doing requires bitter tears of repentance. It may not be necessary to mourn for days or even hours, but I have little confidence in the idea that a man can simply quit his meanness, turn round and go the other way without any signs of contrition for wasted opportunities, streams of influence started in wrong directions, the evil done and the sins committed against Almighty God.

The returning prodigal was of the same type as the publican who prayed "God, be merciful to me a sinner," and of all truly penitent sinners to-day. One tear of genuine repentance outweighs a lifetime of dead formalism.

We have pictured here an extreme case and doubtless an object in that, that none might despair. And yet, do we not find many a counterpart?



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You are familiar with Byron's despairing wail:

“My days are in the yellow leaf,  
The flowers and fruits of love are gone;  
The worm, the canker and the grief,  
Are mine alone.  
The fire that in my bosom preys  
Is like some volcanic isle;  
No torch is kindled at its blaze,  
A funeral pile.”

What an awful famine of soul the man must have experienced before making such an outcry! And yet others are as hopeless to-day.

Think of a Jewish nobleman feeding swine. Such was their abhorrence of a hog that Canon Spence says, “They would not even call it by name, but referred to it as ‘that other thing.’”

The penitence of this young man was genuine, as evidenced by his willingness to return and make confession. It would have seemed the part of wisdom had the young man gone back home long before coming to such desperate straits; and yet his action was true to life. The gambler, convinced of his sin, argues with himself, “I will just play this one more game to win back former losses.” The drunkard says, “Just one more dram and then I will quit my cups.” And the libertine says, “One more debauch, and then I will give up my hellish

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practices." And so the argument runs; "One more dance," "One more show," "One more social game of cards." What awful risks men will take for that "one more!" How hard it is for young men to break away from sin and turn to God! The appeals and pleadings from the average pulpit are enough to move a heart of adamant, to say nothing of the prayers, tears, and entreaties of Sunday school teachers, mothers, and others. And yet, how many successfully resist all these influences!

God's willingness to forgive is shown in the many invitations and promises of His Word; but the proof positive is in the fact that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

When we consider the enormity of our guilt, we might otherwise despair; but when God thus lays His bosom bare till we can see the very heart-throbs of His love toward a sinful race, we can no longer question not only His willingness, but His anxiety to save the whole sinful world, and at the same time we can accept the promises of His Word and the provisions of His grace, without making any allowance for their seeming extravagance. All that men need to do is to come to Him, although sick and bruised till no soundness remains, nothing but

## A YOUNG MAN'S REWARD

wounds and bruises and putrefying sores, unalleviated by ointment; and He will save to the uttermost all who come to God through Jesus Christ. He even cuts short the carefully formulated confession. This boy had a great speech prepared, and commenced to say it. He just got far enough to evidence his sincerity, when the father cut it short by saying, "Bring forth the best robe." What a change! The fellow was doubtless pretty shabby. He was footsore and travel-stained. The next moment he is bathed and arrayed in the best of apparel. That is only a type, a shadow of the change God makes in a human soul when it returns from the wanderings of sin to a place within His fold.

It was not many days after the son made the demand for his portion of goods till he started on what proved to be his downward career, although he did not intend it at the time to be such. So it is not long after a man deliberately rejects God and turns his back on Him, till he will be going hellward at a fearful rate. Let me give you a homely illustration: Our city required owners of dogs to pay a tax and have a collar for the dog, with a license tag attached. The marshal lived in the same block on which the parsonage stands. For some days I saw three dogs without collars, playing in the

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marshal's yard. One morning I heard the report of a gun, followed by the yelp of a dog. The same thing was quickly repeated, and the next morning the third dog unwittingly came back and met the same fate. That was the most dangerous place in the city for a dog without a collar. The dogs knew no better. Young men with brain capacity sufficient to place them in the forefront of the best citizenship of the community will venture on the devil's territory, in spite of all the warnings that can be uttered.

Not long since the daily papers told of a group of young fellows in St. Louis who dared one of their number to climb a pole and touch a live wire. He did it, rather than be called a coward and take a dare. That was not bravery. That was cowardice in the extreme, and he forfeited his life as the penalty. So all about us young men are touching the live wire of sin and are going down to a death that is eternal. The distance to the "far country" is not measured by stretches of land or leagues of ocean. It is only out to the place where men forget the obligations God has placed upon them.

Sonship is the rightful, legitimate relation, and when men sever that relation by sin, no wonder there comes occasionally, at least, the

## A YOUNG MAN'S REWARD

sense of an awful discord, a lack of harmony between the soul and God.

All have been at home with the Father in the innocency of childhood. They who reject God's call as it comes in early life, and go into a pathway of sin, wander into the "far country." The man who descends to the impure jest, to the profane utterance, to the maudlinism of the drunkard, to the gratification of sensualism at the price of ruined virtue, is feeding lower than the husks fed to the swine.

Father Taylor, in the description of the descent of a degraded youth, said, "Hush; shut the door; he's cursing his mother."

The application of the parable is moral and spiritual in every particular; the going into a far country, the waste, the famine, the destitution, the coming to himself, the resolution, the return, the penitence, the reconciliation, and the joyful reception. And, remember, that the application is much more intense than the figure.

It is not enough to *think* about coming nor to *resolve* to come home. You must arise and come. The welcome is abundantly assured. The robe is waiting. The kiss of reconciliation will be gladly, joyously given. The prodigal's reception was a thousand-fold above what he

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had anticipated, or even dreamed of receiving. So God is a thousand-fold better to the penitent than he deserves or thinks of asking. He is anxiously waiting to bestow the best robe, to clothe the soul with the livery of the skies, garments that shall shine as the brightness of the stars, and stands ready to feast you upon the richest products of the heavenly land, and by and by you are to go "sweeping through the gates" into the city of the New Jerusalem, there to be clad in immortal glory and feast at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

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Be sober. Be honest. Love God and serve Him.

JAMES M. DAVIS.

*Ex-Judge Circuit Court,  
Chillicothe, Mo.*

"Be sure you are right, and then go ahead," is the motto in which I have always had great faith, and a short talk with this as your subject would be certain to set the minds of your audience working in the right direction.

Yours very truly,  
*St. Louis, Mo.*

A. D. BROWN.

Keep your record clean. Aim high. Be sure you are right, then go ahead. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well. Keep everlastingly at it. Have faith in God and in yourself.

E. C. STEPHENS.

*Columbia, Mo.*

## A YOUNG MAN'S REWARD

Don't gamble. Grow. Invest. Never speculate. "Hell is paved with four-flushes." We are in the universe a part of it. The law of the universe is order. Things don't happen; they come to pass.

Society may seem to tolerate graft, the universe never. Mother Earth says: "Tickle and I laugh, but no tickle, no laugh." America's one danger is the "get there" craze. Something for nothing is never a lucky strike. Rebates, trading stamps, lotteries, margins are all symptoms of Americanites, the most deadly insidious disease of the social order. Play the game.

The fun of life is doing things. The man who gets without giving is a swindler. He swindles himself more than anybody else. It's a sorry feeling to put on a coat, conscious that it covers a brand.

"Better the wee cot, and  
Love, the cricket's chirk  
And the glad sweet smile of her."

—*Geo. L. McNutt.*

My very brief message to young men would be: Acquire power, poise, alertness in physical, mental, industrial, and moral life, using all for the good of men and the glory of God.

Yours sincerely, A. E. WINSHIP.

*Editor Journal of Education,  
Boston, Mass.*

Replying to your letter, permit me to say that if I had the ear of the young manhood of the nation, I would say: Young man, put your

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life in harmony with the teachings of the world's Redeemer. To do this means that the nation will have a citizenship that is honest; that is sober; that is pure-minded; that is courageous; that is true. Under such citizenship the nation, with all of the sacred rights and interests involved, will continue to grow in strength and influence for the liberty of man and the uplifting of the race. Without this kind of a citizenship, we are as a house built upon the sand.

Sincerely yours,            JOHN E. SWANGER.

*Department of State,  
Jefferson City, Mo.*

Study to find the needs of your community and generation, and devote yourself to the service that will supply those needs.

Service is the key that unlocks the door to the world's treasures of fortune, fame, and contentment.

H. P. MILLER.

*Westerville, Ohio.*

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now." Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. I know of nothing that expresses my views as fully.

I am, etc.,

W. M. SCOTT.

*Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Grand Army  
of the Republic,  
Atlanta, Ga.*



## A YOUNG MAN'S REWARD

Yours received and contents noted. In my haste, I can only give you a very inadequate reply. As a matter of fact, your question involves more or less thought to answer it intelligently. But I would say to the young men:

Be a man. To be a man is to have a man's ideal in life and to put forth a man's strength and exercise a man's courage and a man's endurance, and a man's purpose in attaining it. To be a man, means to control the lower nature. It means to aim high. It means not necessarily financial success, but it means moral success. The highest success in life is to achieve manhood. To achieve manhood in the highest form, the Christian ideal must be adopted, and to adopt the Christian ideal is to adopt Christ, is to receive from Him power to achieve. And so I would sum up my advice to the young men in one word: Be Christ's man.

I trust this answers your purpose.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

E. Y. MULLINS.

*President Southern Baptist Theological Sem-  
inary,  
Louisville, Ky.*

Remember that the greatest thing in life is youth. Ripened youth should be wisdom. Opportunities are swifter than pigeons. An old millionaire dies disappointed. The death of the wise old man is sublime.

*Chicago, Ill.*

OPIE REED.

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Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Read the Bible daily. "It will be a lamp to your feet and a light to your pathway." Obeying its precepts will make you a clean man and a more useful citizen. For we are forgetting that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Yours truly,  
*Pemberton, N. J.* W. H. HEISLER.

If I had the ear of the young manhood of this country for two minutes, I would say: "Quit yourselves like men;" for this is the most opportune age in the world's history. Never before was there the demand for well equipped, manly men in all of the legitimate pursuits of life as now. Start out with the firm conviction that your life shall make the world better, but remember that to make sure of this, you must come into personal touch by means of a living faith with Jesus Christ, without whom no man ever has, or ever will, reach the highest degree of success.

*Maryville, Mo.* C. H. JOHN.

Yours at hand. If I had the ear of young men for two minutes, I would say something like the following: *What is true success?* Anything is a true success if it accomplishes what the form of its construction shows its maker intended it to do. For instance, an umbrella shows from the form of its construction that its maker intended it to keep off the rain. No matter what else you may do with an umbrella, if it shall fail to keep off the rain, *it is a failure*

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*as an umbrella.* Suppose we had before us two or three machines with several points in common, but each having a distinctive feature. This one has a knife as its distinctive feature. Evidently the maker intended this machine to accomplish its particular service in the use of that knife. So with each machine, its unique endowment indicates what its maker intended it to do. Now consider man in the light of these facts. You must at once rise above the physical, the animal, the psychical, the sentient, up to the level of the moral and spiritual. Here is man's unique endowment. In him alone are the capacities to build character as the exponent of the immortal soul, to rise into the realm of spiritual possibilities in fellowship with God, to unfold these capacities into all that is noblest and best, until he has realized a victorious manhood. No matter what else a man may do, though he amass gold enough to fill his grave, though he shine as an intellectual genius, though he rise to mastery in art or literature, though he be generous in the realm of kindness before human needs; yet if he shall fail to rise to that realization of his spiritual life which is revealed and made possible in Jesus Christ, and in Him alone, then you must write across his scroll of fame, *But he was a failure as an immortal soul.* There it was that God intended him to be a success. Some men seem to think that if they provide generously for the physical needs of those dependent upon them, feed their bodies and clothe them, that is being a successful citizen. But not so. Unless their immortal souls are

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considered, shaped, developed into strong and victorious Christian character, they have not made life worth while. Some men, in trying to make a living, lose a life. Life only will satisfy a soul; mere things never. The text to study as a young man faces life is that of John to Gaius (3 John 2): "Beloved, I pray that in all things thou mayest prosper and be in good health, *as thy soul prospereth.*"

Trusting this may be serviceable, I remain,  
Fraternally yours,

HOWARD AGNEW JOHNSTON.

*Colorado Springs, Colo.*

*Briefly*, "Be true to yourselves; seek out the best things in life and pursue them diligently; make it a point to eschew trashy novels; read good books, especially the Bible, the best and wisest of all books, and biographies of the great and good men and statesmen of your own country, and of other countries as well. What you read and absorb is what you will almost unconsciously be; or, in other words, it will form the foundation on which you will build your character. If possible, take a college education, not because it may be the fashion in your set, but for the accumulation of capital, knowledge, and discipline upon which to prosecute a successful life in the broadest sense of the word. Exercise your mind in quiet thought. Study, contemplate, ponder, reflect, meditate. "Blessed is the man that doth *meditate* good things." And strive to acquire the habit of thinking on your feet.

Finally, "Whatsoever things are true, what-

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soever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things," and practice them.

Yours very truly, D. S. GRAY.

*Vice-President The Hayden-Clinton National Bank,  
Columbus, Ohio.*

Ben Franklin said: "Diligence is the mother of good luck, and God gives all things to industry." If I had the opportunity, I would impress that upon the young manhood of this day. The road to success is no harder than it ever has been, except that there are more men traveling it, and they jostle each other more, perhaps, as they push forward.

No young man has a right to expect to reach the top without effort, and the more effort he makes in youth, the easier it will be for him to continue that effort through life, without envy of others or loss of faith in God and humanity. Above all things, shun pessimism. It is the invention of the devil.

I am, with respect, yours truly,

J. G. CANNON.

*Speaker's Room, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.*

Two minutes is a short time in which to advise a young man. He needs a strong body, a trained mind, and a high purpose; and in the training of his character, he needs a religion upon which

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to build a morality, and I believe that the Christian religion supplies that need and enables him to build upon a rock.

Very truly yours, W. J. BRYAN.  
*Lincoln, Neb.*

Live a clean, white life. Let your thoughts and your actions be such that you can ask the blessing of God upon all that you do.

Yours most sincerely,  
*St. Louis, Mo.* FRANK P. HAYS.

Know all that you can, but do not tell all that you know. To be fully worthy of confidential knowledge is business and social capital; it is also Christian kindness. If you do talk, tell the truth always.

Whatever you do, let it be well done. Honesty will prompt this, and the hope of advancement will demand it.

Be considerate, kindly, courteous, and helpful to everybody at all times. The Golden Rule in society and in business is the always safe rule from both the standpoint of policy and conscience.

Be contented with your surroundings; strive in a fair way for better things, but do not be discontented if circumstances do not bring them rapidly; hope for advancement, but be always glad and grateful that the present is not worse; think of the many less fortunate, rather than the few more fortunate.

Get an education that is not less than a full high school course; more is desirable, but nothing less will do if you mean to be a man among

## A YOUNG MAN'S REWARD

men. Up to this point you need make no decision as to your life work. You can choose no work in which less than a high school education will not be a serious handicap.

Study the Bible and know its teachings and its laws; follow them at all times and in all places.

If the above can be of any help to you in your effort to inspire young men to their best, I shall be glad of the assistance.

Sincerely yours,

MARVIN CAMPBELL.

*President South Bend National Bank,  
South Bend, Ind.*

If I could have the ear of the young manhood of the nation for two minutes, I should, of course, speak to them about Jesus Christ and their need of Him; first, to show them the kind of men they ought to be, and second, to help them to be that kind of men, through their deliverance from the shame and the strength of their past sin by His power and the cross, and their entrance into the purity and the might of God through Him and His resurrection. Christ is the only type of perfect character, and He alone has the secret of its attainment by others. Any merely moral statement of the ideal of manhood is sure to be imperfect, just as in proportion it falls short of the character of Christ. And any portrayal to men of the highest ideals is just so much mockery unless there be some available power to enable men to do the good they already know. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord of men, because He is the

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revelation of perfect character, and also the power by which such character may be realized in those who follow Him.

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT E. SPEER.

*The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian  
Church in the U. S. A.,  
New York City.*

The question, "Should the young man be a Christian?" is the key to all other questions. Until the young man gets right with God, he can not understand the Old Book, nor will the pleasures he seeks be real pleasure. He will not have God's wisdom to cut out the work of his life, nor His help to get the best friends, nor the courage to fight his worst enemies, nor will he get the best value for his money.

I do not believe that any young man can thoroughly know himself until he receives the Holy Spirit to help him to conquer the flesh and live the real life under the leadership of the only perfect man, the God-man of Galilee.

Your friend,

*Philadelphia, Pa.*

JOHN WANAMAKER.

The message I wish to send to the young men of your congregation is found in the fourth chapter of the letter to the Philippians. It reads as follows: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things



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are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

HENRY A. BUCHEL.

*Executive Office, Denver, Colo.*

Being one of the two or three surviving war governors, I naturally send the following message to the young men of your audience: Stand up manfully for our glorious union of States, its just constitutional rights firmly established, and made supreme over all, cementing all in a glorious whole—a union of States—"Distinct as the billows and one as the sea."

Truly yours, FREDERICK HOLBROOK.

*Brattleboro, Vt.*

NOTE.—The following messages in this chapter are from "The Young Man and Himself," by permission of the author, Dr. J. S. Kirtley.

The first object of life is not wealth, or fame, or power, but the development of character. It is not what a man has, but what he is, that makes the man. The only capital we shall carry into the next world will be the characters we are forming now. SAMUEL B. CAPEN.

*President American Board of Foreign Missions.*

As no worthy success or true greatness can be achieved apart from Him, I would like to give our young men this motto, "Christ, our Master, in all things." GEORGE W. CARROLL.

*Lumber Merchant,  
Beaumont, Texas.*

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To be born into this world a sentient, self-conscious, and reasoning being, surrounded by inexhaustible glories in nature, which we may comprehend, possess, enjoy; to be able to rise on the wings of a lofty imagination, to be able to get glimpses of the ideally perfect, to apprehend the Divine, it is to the development and enjoyment of these high powers that the young man is invited. How dare he refuse to qualify himself by the most perfect training of all his powers?

LYMAN J. GAGE.

*New York.*

A young man can do with his life what he will. Within the very wide limits of special circumstances, it is possible for him to reach his ideals. The whole matter depends upon his choice of a plan of life and the resolute adherence with which he keeps it in view. No young man can afford to play with his ideals. Concentration is the secret of success; and a greater secret still is the effort to use the divine strength in the accomplishment of his purposes. No man can reach his ideals without the help of God. "We can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us."

HERBERT L. WILLETT.

*Professor of Language,  
University of Chicago.*

With open confession of your need of divine guidance, and with a cheerful acceptance of the promise of the Heavenly Father to give it, seek to follow that calling in life which affords

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the widest opportunity for strenuous, unselfish endeavor to better the conditions of human life about you, having reference not only to the life that now is, but the life which is to come.

W. S. SHALLENBERGER.

*Assistant Postmaster General.*

Be true to yourself. Love yourself so much that you will love others. Perfect yourself. Give yourself something definite to do. Keep yourself in constant communication with the Almighty.

JAMES STOKES.

*Financier, New York.*

Remember that knowledge is power; that it is of the first importance. Improve your evening spare hours in acquiring as much of it as possible. The Bible, the "Book of books," is the foundation of all law, human and divine. Cultivate the love of its study and the acquisition of all knowledge, but particularly that to be derived from the teachings of Christ and inspired men.

F. M. DRAKE.

*Ex-Governor of Iowa.*

The whole of life—its character, conduct, and achievements—is made up of parts, and it is of the utmost importance that a young man have every small element just right. Look after the littles and the large is safe. Save dimes and you save dollars. Be manly in detail and you will be *en masse*. "Attention to details" is one of the rules of the time.

*Kansas City, Mo.* CHARLES W. ARMOUR.

## THOUGHTS THAT BREATHE

Genius or talent produces no results without dogged perseverance and very hard work.

*Orange, N. J.*

THOMAS A. EDISON.

If a young man hopes to succeed in any line, he must work. An idle boy will never win. He must also be temperate, reverent, and honest if he expects to accomplish anything of value. Summing it all up, I would say that the young man who will nine times out of ten make a success in his life's work is the one who is honest, industrious, attends strictly to business, observes the Golden Rule in his dealings with his fellow-men, and who lives a clean, upright life.

DAVID RANKIN.

*Missouri Cattle King and Banker,  
Tarkio, Mo.*

Tell your boys to have all the good fun they can, so they make things balance in life. By good fun, I mean the kind they can tell mother and sisters about. The other kind leaves a bitter taste in the mouth and bitter regrets lifelong after.

JACOB A. RIIS.

*New York.*

The Chinese have a peculiar code of laws; the Turks have another; the Indians another. Jews and Christians take the code of Moses. There will be a wide variation in action, but the faculty or power remains the same for all beings who have a conscience. The Christian code, including the Golden Rule, *i. e.*, to love thy neighbor as thyself, is the highest, the purest,

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and the best. We can not too carefully square our thinking and our acting by it, letting the conscience have its full sway.

GEN. O. O. HOWARD.

The physical body is the tenement of the soul, and the soul can only exercise its God-like function in a body uncontaminated by vice.

NICHOLAS SENN, M. D.

*Rush Medical College,  
Chicago, Ill.*

We are all preachers. What we do and say has its influence on others. Let us see that our preaching is of the right sort, so that it will give us comforting memories as old age comes on, and influence for good the lives of those who remain when we are silent in our graves.

S. L. CLEMENS.

*Mark Twain, the world's greatest humorist.*

Many men achieve what seems to be a great success by questionable methods, but we overlook the fact that a very large majority of the men who attempt to succeed in such a manner not only fail, but make their lives disastrous failures. The demand is always greater than the supply for thoroughly honest and faithful men with unflagging devotion to the principle of self-respect and duty, and such men have a vastly better opportunity for success in life than those who do not command public confidence.

ALEX K. McCLURE.

*Former Editor Philadelphia Times.*

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The world's greatest industry is the making of young men. The world's greatest need is clean young men. Watch and pray fulfills the requirements of science as well as of religion. Young men with pure thoughts, clean bodies, hands, and methods will always be in demand, and there is no danger of the supply being greater than the demand.

JOSEPH B. MARVIN, M. D., LL. D.

*President Kentucky University College.*

A sound or whole mind must needs have a sound or whole body to live in. No good father or mother would think of raising a family of healthy children in a leaky house located over an open sewer. The mind lives in and should control the body in its food and recreations. The Holy Spirit must control the mind. Jesus alone can furnish the motive and the power.

*Chicago, Ill.*

JOHN V. FARWELL.

Keep your body clean; keep your mind clear; keep your heart pure.

JOHN O. RUST, LL. D.

The power of using the chance aright comes only to the man who has faithfully made ready himself and his weapons for the possible need.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

## CHAPTER V.

### A YOUNG WOMAN'S REBUKE AND REWARD.

“We turn our sad, reluctant gaze  
Upon the path of duty;  
Its barren, uninviting ways  
Are void of bloom and beauty.  
Yet in that road, though dark and cold,  
It seems as we begin it,  
As we press on—lo! we behold  
There's heaven in it.”

—*Ella Wheeler Wilcox.*

JESUS said in the tenth chapter of Luke, “One thing is a necessity, and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” This draws an evident comparison between the two sisters Martha and Mary. Both were disciples and each a good woman, but one was pre-eminently good. A combination of good things is not the good part. Many things are good, but only one is the absolutely needful property that insures eternal salvation.

Martha was no less devoted in her way than Mary in hers, and oftentimes the Marys are possible because of the Marthas. It is not the

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serving, but allowing one's self to be cumbered with the serving that is at fault. Possibly nothing is more trying than household cares—doing the same thing over and over day after day. It is only when the mind becomes so absorbed with these that Christ is excluded from His rightful place, that these are in any danger of becoming sinful. Mary was twice rebuked, and the last time her name heralded down the ages so that all future generations shall hear it spoken with great favor.

Both the communion and service are necessary. What we need is the combination of the two. The Marthas need to cultivate the habit of thoughtful contemplation, and the Marys need to practice the useful activities. The banqueting and serving will soon pass away and be forgotten. What we *are* will endure.

We can only be pure in heart, noble in purpose and life, true to God and our fellow-men, as we take Jesus into our lives, till He is so inwrought into our very being as to become a part and parcel of ourselves. The life thus hidden with Christ in God will triumph over the waste of disease, disaster, and death. Nothing but self-neglect can harm or destroy such a life. God never forsakes any soul. It is only after one has become careless and indifferent, and after God's spirit has used every possible



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means to prevent it, that the righteous turn away from their righteousness. Mary may renounce her choice, throw away the "good part," but all the powers of earth and hell combined can not take it away from her.

The sitting at Jesus' feet is not to become indolent, but it is a preparation for higher and better service. God has no place for mere idlers. Yet we need times of secret communing with Him, out of which shall grow a more acceptable service because prompted by a better comprehension of God's real character and a deeper-seated, more far-reaching love growing out of that closer intimacy and larger knowledge. Jesus waited thirty years before entering upon His ministry, and Paul waited three years in Arabia, and went thence to labor for the Master, but was still a learner. John leaned on Jesus' breast at meals a long time before he got away from being "the son of thunder." To sit at Jesus' feet as a learner and at the same time to be a "doer of the word," is the most beautiful proportion of the life that is preparatory and at the same time the foretaste of the heavenly life that is to come.

The first thing for the Christian's soul-health and usefulness, as well as for God's glory, is to keep one's self in close, constant communion with God.

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Life is full of cares and worries, anywhere, everywhere, among all classes and conditions of men. Each one thinks he has the hardest lot, and yet no one is exactly willing to trade himself for any other. O, if you could trade and keep your own personality, your own peculiar characteristics, you might be willing; but to exchange out and out and give up your own excellent qualities and accept the peculiarities, even of the most refined, would be repulsive to you. When you look at it from this standpoint, your life and surroundings are not so much worse than others after all.

You are making choices, forming habits, cultivating ties of affection by your present associations that will bind you more closely by and by, than you now think, and that are destined to make your life a blessing or a curse. *Be careful!* Some things in this life are worse for a young woman than to remain unmarried. The Book of Books utters specific caution against being "unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Many Christian girls have backslidden and gone to perdition through the influence of godless husbands. Many have thought to marry a man and reform him afterward or, at least, change his life. That is almost invariably a fatal mistake. A young man will do much more to please you

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before marriage than he will afterward. Reform him first, if he needs it, and then marry him when he has served a sufficient probation to prove his sincerity. One of the most important things for young people who differ in their religious beliefs or practices, in making their engagements, is to have a thorough understanding as to their religious life. The importance of this is only determined by the fact that religion is the all-important factor in every life. I repeat, a mistake here is likely to prove fatal.

It is more important for a young woman to be careful in her choice of a husband, so far as she may be said to have a choice, than for a young man. Generally speaking, the man can lift the woman to his own sphere in society or Church, or drag her down to his own level, as the case may be. It is the exception for a woman to be able to elevate a husband to her level. Young women can do much to elevate the tone of young manhood. Be absolute in your demands. Utterly refuse the association of the young man who indulges in strong drink, and I would like to add, the use of tobacco, unless he gives promise of reformation. More than this and even above this, demand the same purity in your gentlemen associates that they demand in you.

I am inclined to believe it was while sitting

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at Jesus' feet, three times recorded of Mary, that she got that deeper insight into coming events which fitted and led her up to the anointing of Christ with the precious ointment during the feast in the house of Simon. This was the most precious ministry offered the Master during His whole earthly life. Possibly she did not understand the full import of her deed at the time. We are taught that we do many things which we do not fully understand at the time. When Peter protested against allowing his feet to be washed by the Master, Jesus said, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." And He also taught that in the judgment day many shall ask, "When saw we Thee an hungered and thirsty and in prison and ministered unto Thee, or failed in our ministry?" Mary saw her opportunity and used it.

It has been placed before us time after time that this is the young man's age and the young man's opportunity. So it is. But it is as assuredly the age for young women as well. Only yesterday there were very few openings of any kind for young women, and the few positions hoary custom permitted her to fill as becoming to her sex were so crowded that the aspirants trampled upon and suffocated each other in their eagerness for positions by which

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they might earn a scanty livelihood for themselves, and in many instances for dependent loved ones as well.

Through the elevating influence of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as it is more fully understood, more generously interpreted, and more justly and equitably applied, women have been admitted to the higher institutions of learning, thereby enabling her to fit herself for work on the same basis as her brother. And as she has manifested her adaptability to measure up to the possibilities, this privilege has opened to her the doors of opportunities for service, and the varied fields have gradually opened to her until she is to be found in almost any and every vocation that you can name.

Great responsibilities rest upon you because of these opportunities and advantages.

My sister, would you have the same blessed intuition that came to Mary, by which you may know when and where to break the alabaster box of your affection and pour its treasures on the Savior's kingly head? It can not be done literally, it is true, but He said, "Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of these," thereby making His people His representatives on earth, and inasmuch as He came to seek and to save that which was lost, and as the travail of His soul is to see the salvation of sinners and this joyful

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satisfaction in their return to Him, the most precious service you can render is to win these as trophies for His Kingdom. Do you ask the how? It can only be learned at His feet. No priest can tell you. No priestly incantations nor sacramental ablutions can fit you for it. Go to His mercy-seat in fullest consecration of all your powers to Him and His service; in complete confidence present yourself to Him for possession and service, and then when you have faithfully wrought in His vineyard, when you have been true to Him in all things, and when you have finished your life's work and the end comes, may you have gained many souls as your hire, and may you be able to repeat the dying words of Mrs. Hemans: "I feel like as if I were sitting with Mary at the feet of my Redeemer, hearing the music of His voice and learning of Him to be meek and lowly."

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To answer that question is a great responsibility. There are so many things that I would like to say to the young womanhood of this nation, a vast majority of whom are living only for the present and for their own pleasure, and I hesitate to answer, for fear I may say the wrong thing. I would say the following:

You are living in the most wonderful age of the world; an age full of opportunities, an age calling for the help of young womanhood in all good works. "The Master has come and

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callesth for thee." It is a wonderful privilege, and a sacred duty to heed this call. With all the strength of my nature, I would say, make your life worth while. By "worth while," I mean, live a life that will make the world better, a life of service for others, without which there can be no truly successful life.

I would like to illustrate my meaning by referring to Isabella Thoburn, who, with a collegiate education at a time when that was unusual for women, with considerable talent as an artist, might have lived her life in society, giving through her artistic ability good and pure thoughts to many, but because she heard the call to higher service went to the help of the down-trodden and ignorant women of North India. At her death there was not a country on earth where she was not mourned. Hundreds of girls will greet her in eternity, because she preferred to make life worth while, rather than to seek her own enjoyment.

Or Mary Ashton, the girl who had decided to give her life for foreign missionary work, and through an accident at Commencement time was crippled for life. She might have spent her time making the people around her miserable, but instead she saw the larger opportunity, and by the work which she was enabled to do, while lying upon her back in bed, she supported two or three missionaries in the foreign field, doing far more than if she had been allowed to go herself.

The majority of young women are living simply the ordinary life, but to make the best possible use of the talents which God has

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given to you, and to get for yourself the greatest happiness, you will have to step out of the ordinary path and follow God's leading into one of the many forms of service for others.

Sincerely yours,

SALLIE B. THOMAS.

*792 East McMillan St., Cincinnati, Ohio.*

In reply to yours of recent date, I beg to say that I would be glad to persuade every young woman of the land to use her influence against the use of intoxicating drinks and cigarettes; for in so doing they can save the boys of our country. Yours most respectfully,

*Columbia, Tenn.*

MRS. L. A. PADGETT.

I think now, I would say, *Be true to thyself.* Avoid bad company and aimless walks; both lead into temptation.

Remember, God is love, and is ever present. My observation with young women has been, if the above were heeded, not nearly so many would go astray.

Sincerely yours for the Master's work,

GEORGIA WADE McCLELLAN.

*National Press Correspondent Woman's Relief  
Corps,  
Denison, Iowa.*

Thank you for this opportunity of speaking briefly to the young women of your congregation.

Comparatively a young woman myself, my heart goes out to the girlhood of our land. I



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wish I could impress upon them all the necessity of being serious. Life is not a frolic; pleasure is not the chief end of woman's existence. This is such a hard old world, so full of sin, and want, and misery, that it behooves every young woman born in a Christian land to assume the responsibility of doing her utmost for the uplift of humanity. The way oftentimes will be difficult, but it will be blessed. The Master, who gave Himself, not to be ministered unto but to minister, will be their Leader, and His companionship makes the hard places easy, the burdens light. Let them consecrate their all to Him and then espouse some truly great cause. Count no sacrifice too great in its behalf; grow with it. And as they realize, perhaps for the first time, that they are "thinking God's thoughts after Him," and walking in paths not of their own choosing, they will know for themselves the joy of service, the blessedness of living.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. F. F. LINDSAY.

*23 Seymore Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.*

My message to the young women of the nation would be: First, "Get right with God," even though that may mean the giving up some things that to you at present seem precious and necessary to your happiness. If you know that they are keeping you away from God (and if we pray for a conscience in these matters, God will give it to us), give them up, and you will soon find that they were not the source of true happiness, but that you have, as it were, exchanged brass for gold, and fleeting pleasures

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for a deep and lasting "peace that passeth understanding."

Second, keep right with God by making His will your own and obeying Him in all things. That may mean giving up all that you have on this side of the waters and obeying the command, "Go ye into all the world," and if He puts it upon your hearts, sisters, to go, do not miss the greatest privilege and joy of your life by refusing to obey; for He has said, "And lo, I am with you always," and what could be more blessed than the consciousness of Christ's Spirit always with us?

If He says to you, Stay and send others, the blessing is yours if you obey; but if He says "Go," do not think you can compromise the matter and still be blessed.

I tried it and found that only when I said, "Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to do?" and went and did His will as He revealed it unto me, did I find peace and joy in all its fullness.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Yours in His name,

AGNES M. EDMONDS.

*Medical Missionary to China.*

In answer to your question, I would say that if I had the ear of the young womanhood of the nation for two minutes, my message to them would be as follows: Improve to the utmost every opportunity of education and culture which in the providence of God is afforded you, for be sure He has a purpose in it all.

It is not without meaning that everything

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possible of opportunity and privilege is being heaped upon you, the young Christian women of the world to-day; that the old conservative seats of learning have one after another opened their doors to admit you; that good, true men in all departments of knowledge are combining to secure for you equal advantages with your brothers. It is because God has a work for you to do which demands the highest mental culture, the broadest development of every power, because your quick intuitions, your keen sensibilities, your deep sympathies, your powers of adaptation, your every womanly grace and virtue are needed in the accomplishment of His divine purpose.

You are to have the chief place in the vast structure of society—not as an ornament, not even as a part essential to the finish, but the *chief part*, the *corner stone*. “That our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitudes of a palace.”

Your influence will be felt in your homes, in your social circles, in your Churches, in whatever relations you may occupy. I beseech you to see to it that that influence is ever exerted in behalf of all that is elevating, purifying, saving. Prove yourselves strong and resolute and trustworthy, above the frivolities and petty vanities too often charged against you. They are unworthy of an age like this, when to be a young woman in this land means to be the possessor of all the privileges so hardly wrung from the iron grasp of custom and prejudice. I pray you cultivate your powers of vision. Look up, look off, look afar! See the whitened

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fields through which God is marching with His armies of events, making history as He goes. And know this, that there is a sad Christless world where degraded womanhood is waiting for you to strike off the shackles that hold them in intolerable bondage. Only woman's hand can set them free. O, bring your highly endowed minds, your trained powers of thought and action, your wide culture and self-control, all you are and hope yet to be, and dedicate them gladly, gratefully to the service of Him who needs you and is counting upon you in His supreme work of bringing this lost world back to God.

I fear my two minutes would be more than up, but this would be the burden of my message.

Very sincerely yours,

*Baltimore, Md.*

MRS. A. H. EATON.

I am dumb before the question you ask in your courteous letter. What *could* I say, in any message, to the young womanhood of the nation?

The letter has been on my desk where I have seen it daily since it came, and every day I have asked for a message from the Father. I think it is found in Psalm 119, 18th verse, 15th verse, 11th verse. Margin of 18th is "reveal," re-again; back. *Velare*, to veil. The prayer is: Remove the veil; unvail; make known what is hidden from sight; tell us that which could not be known without instruction from God. The prayer then is: "Reveal, Thou O Lord, to the eyes of my soul the wondrous things out of Thy law, so that I may

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behold them." To behold, to see, we must know about what we want to see.

So, 15th verse, "meditate;" not dream, not study, but passively *think*, soul and body waiting. Meditation, act of the mind and heart. It enters into the soul life, stirs thought. Thought stirs prayer. Prayer passes into communion. Communion (witness of the Spirit with our spirits) reveals new matter for meditation.

The word gets into the very center of the life (11th verse), when a person has meditated through the Bible several times the "Word" does become "hid in mine heart." The Scriptures energize every fiber of the being and develops the soul life so that one can always say, "Yes, Lord," to what He requires of us.

If to every young woman the Word becomes a living and life-giving Book, "all things else will be added."

Sincerely,

CHARLOTTE F. WILDER.

*Manhattan, Kans.*

## CHAPTER VI.

### WORKMEN WANTED.

“But if there be who follow Paul,  
As Paul his Lord, in life and death,  
Where'er an asking heart may call,  
Ready to speed and take no breath;  
Who makes the Savior all his theme,  
The gospel all his pride and praise,  
Approach! for thou canst feel the gleam  
That 'round the martyr's deathbed plays;  
Thou hast an ear for angels' songs,  
A breath the gospel trump to fill;  
And taught by thee the Church prolongs  
Her hymns of high thanksgiving still.”  
—*John Keble.*

WHEN Paul was writing to Timothy, he said, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.” Paraphrase this advice into the language of the modern newspaper, and you may read something like this: “Wanted! Men to work for God on approval.” God has had His call for strong, stalwart, faithful men on the bulletin board of His Word for nearly nineteen hundred years; but with Moses of old, pleading his lameness of speech, and like the men bidden to

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the great supper, men still make excuse. One-half the eloquence and effort put forth in service that we use in excuses would accomplish wonders in the extension of God's Kingdom.

Paul sets forth faithfulness as the first requisite qualification for an approved workman. We are stewards, not proprietors, and ought to make the best out of all the talent God has entrusted to us, by its use in the market of life. This obligation to faithfulness extends to the whole life, to its trifles as well as its great events, to life's drudgeries as well as its pleasures, and takes into account even our thoughts, as well as our words and actions.

We should be faithful, first of all, for our own sake. We have a trust committed to us by Almighty God. He commits to our keeping an immortal soul. We took upon ourselves a voluntary oath of allegiance, pledge of fidelity in baptism, and have reaffirmed that obligation every time we have partaken of the sacred emblems in the Lord's Supper. When Blucher was ordered to the front to re-enforce the army at the battle of Waterloo, his men, referring to the difficulties in the way, said, "It can't be done." He replied: "I have promised to be there. Promised, do you hear? You would not have me break my word!" For the sake of your promise, be faithful.

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You should be faithful because of the expectation you have awakened in the minds of others. It is related of Lord Chatham that he had promised his little boy that he should see a certain wall built. The promise having been forgotten for the time, the wall was built. Then, remembering the promise, he had the workmen tear down the wall and build it over again in the presence of the child. He did this rather than disappoint the expectation awakened.

The world is looking to you. The world realizes that the ransom price of redemption has been paid. Men long for salvation. While occasionally one will rejoice over the failure or downfall of a Christian, the great mass of the sinful world believes in Christianity, and they are sorry at heart when you fail in your fidelity to Christ and His Church. They look to you for a pattern, for an example, and are disappointed when you go astray. They expect great things from you, have a right to do so, and you sadly lose in the power of your influence if you are not faithful.

The Church is looking to you. The Church has trusted you, believed in you. When you professed conversion, they took you into fellowship in the confidence they imposed in you, and gave you place and prestige. The confidence thus extended puts you under immeasurable



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obligation to faithfulness such as shall not disappoint these legitimate expectations.

Jesus Christ looks to you, that in the fruit of your lives He may see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied, as men and women, and especially your associates, are led to Him through the influence of your example and invitation. He has the highest possible right to expect faithfulness in your service. He created and redeemed you. He purchased you with the price of His own blood, shed on Calvary. When you were in sin, He sent the Holy Spirit out after you, and when you turned to Him with the mighty debt of sin, of disobedience, of rebellion, and neglect against you, He forgave it all; and then gave you every possible encouragement; placed all the riches of grace at your disposal, every wealth of the Divine Kingdom, every jewel of the Christian graces, every treasure of love, to be had on the simple condition that you ask in faith. What a right He has to expect that you will be faithful, and how anxiously He looks to you for the manifestation of it in your lives! He is just as much in love with the world now as when He left "the glory He had with the Father," and came to "seek and save that which was lost;" just as much grieved over the waywardness of sinners as when He cried from the cross,

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“Father, forgive them; they know not what they do.” So great is His confidence in you and expectation of you that He now commits the work of soul-winning, the evangelization of the world to faithful men, and wants you to be among these faithful ones.

Some of us want to show our fidelity in some marked way, in some great enterprise for the Master, possibly feel that the little things are beneath our notice. The only assurance of success in great responsibilities is faithfulness in the lesser ones. That opens the door to greater opportunities as nothing else can do. Men give added responsibility to busy men. Jesus called busy men to discipleship, and when He wanted the gospel preached in the city of Rome, that important center of influence and power, He called the busiest man in the whole Church, the man who had been willing to be anything or nothing, who had proved himself faithful in every detail of service, and said to Paul, “As thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness at Rome also.”

You must not only be faithful, but endure hardness as well. Paul enforces these duties by the figure of the gymnast, the soldier, and the husbandman. You need to be as true to God as the husbandman is to himself. He must toil if he would reap. He must expose himself

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to the storm in order to care for his flocks and herds. He will endure hardships for them that he would not ask of an hireling. I once heard a father whose son was in the ministry, say: "I have never been able to hire any two men who will do as much work on the farm as my son did when he was at home." Why? Because he was the son and the only heir, and took the same interest in everything that the father did. We are the sons of God, joint heirs with Jesus Christ, and ought therefore to have the same interest as Christ Himself.

The gymnast, the athlete, will diet himself, practice self-denial, exercise for months, to be in the best possible physical condition for a single day of contest. When Jardini was asked, "How long will it take to learn the violin?" he replied, "Twelve hours a day for twenty years." When we speak of the endurance and bravery of the soldier, the deeds of such men as Washington, Grant, Sherman, Logan, Sheridan, Lee, Jackson, Hooker, Roosevelt, Sampson, Schley, and Dewey come flocking to our minds as doves to their windows.

Shall the farmer look more carefully after his material interests than we look after the interests of the soul? Shall the gymnast, the athlete practice greater self-denial to win a crown of fading laurels and the momentary

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plaudits of men than we, in fitting ourselves for the heavenly race, with its crown of eternal life and the "well done" of the Father in heaven? Shall the musician take more time to fit himself for efficiency on the piano or violin than we do in fitting ourselves to make melody in the heart unto the Lord? Shall the soldier manifest greater bravery and endure severer hardships than we will for the "King of kings and Lord of lords?"

It is said that General Howard was once asked, "What was the bravest deed you witnessed during the Civil War?" He said, in substance: "It was the act of a young non-commissioned officer at a reception given by the commanding general at the headquarters' tent. This young man was one of the invited guests. Obscene stories were told. Strong drink was in evidence. He stepped to the tent door, cap in hand, saluted the host, and said, 'General, you will have to excuse me; I promised my mother when I enlisted that I would not willingly stay where I would have to listen to stories that she could not hear, nor in company where strong drink was being used,' and retired. That," said General Howard, "was the bravest deed I witnessed during the war."

We are not only to be co-sufferers with Christ, if need be, but co-laborers as well. We are to

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be workmen, toilers. It has been well said that, "You can not climb the ladder of fame with your hands in your pockets." And it is just as true of success in any other direction. Christ set the example. I would not detract one iota nor for one moment from the importance, yea, the absolute necessity of His sacrificial death. We are speaking just now more particularly with reference to His life and example. His earliest public utterance was, "I must be about My Father's business." He said: "I must work the work of Him that sent Me. I must finish the work He gave Me to do." He even went so far as to say, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me." And when His life's work was ended and He was on the cross, He said, "I have glorified Thee on the earth, I have finished the work Thou gavest Me to do." He not only accomplished the work committed to Him by the Father; He made it possible for others to be likewise faithful through the grace given them. When Paul came toward the close of his most remarkable earthly career, he reviewed the past and looked out toward the future, and exultingly exclaimed, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord,

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the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day." What Christ enabled Paul to do, He will enable you to do also. The same victory he won is possible for you.

Difficulties must not discourage you. Storms are necessary in the physical world and have their place in the religious life. A continuous cloudless sky would be unendurable. A life without any crosses, difficulties, hardships, or self-denials would result in a selfishness that would be absolutely ruinous. Joseph's life was the most completely filled with hardships, and yet he was the only one of the twelve brethren who especially excelled. We owe some of Paul's greatest writings to the time of his imprisonment. Luther translated the New Testament into the German language while in jail. Christ's seeming defeat in death on the cross, when darkness seemed to be settling like a pall over all the hopes of the world, was really the dawning of the brightest day the world has ever seen; and the seeming defeat was in reality the culmination of the most far-reaching victory the world has ever known.

Christ not only works with us and in us, but He is the source, the fountain of all strength. "In Him we live, move, and have our being." "Through Christ strengthening us, we can do all things." The vocations of life, the farm,

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merchandise, shop or office, have their rightful place and claim upon us; recreation has its place; society, our country, and the family have their claims upon us; but God has rights and claims which are greater, more far-reaching and transcendently more important than any or all of these. He urges these claims upon you in His Word and by His Holy Spirit. He is calling for you, and wants you to be men who will resist temptation; men who will make self-denial for Him and for the good of your fellow-man; men who will stand firmly for the right at all times and in all places; men who will be true to God and the Church above every other consideration; men who will love God supremely and do unto others as they would have others do unto them.

Jesus said, "If any man come to Me and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brethren and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he can not be My disciple." Not that we are to hate our kindred absolutely, but the supreme test of our fidelity is such a superiority of love to God as that all earthly loves are as hatred in the comparison.

In everything else we have an ambition to excel, to be first-class. The true minister of the gospel is not content to be a drone. The teacher worthy the name is never satisfied

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short of the highest attainments in the profession. The farmer wants to be classed among the best. The physician, the dentist, the lawyer is not counted worthy who does not strive to stand in the front rank of his profession. A young man who had made choice of surgery as his life's work was fascinated with baseball. His uncle, who was an eminent surgeon, said to him, "You can not harden the tissues of your hands with the excessive exercise of baseball and retain that delicacy of touch which is necessary to first-class surgery." It was a hard battle. In a few moments the young man said, "If that is true, then baseball goes." Brother, sister, you can not conform your life to the ways of worldly society and retain that delicacy of conscience necessary to be a first-class Christian. If you will calmly, prayerfully study God's Word by the aid of the Holy Spirit, you will know this to be true. You ought to have a holy ambition to be first-class in your Christian life; yea, that ambition should be paramount to everything else. Lay aside everything that stands in the way; deny yourselves everything which hinders your highest development in the Christian life; everything which stands in the way of attaining the highest standards of living as revealed to us in the Word of God.



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Therefore, *study*, use speed, be diligent, be prompt, be in earnest to show thyself approved or acceptable unto God, a workman, a toiler that needeth not to be ashamed, remembering, "It is God that worketh in you, both to will and to do of His own good pleasure."

"O! be thou zealous in thy youth;  
Fill every day with noble toils,  
Fight for the victories of truth,  
And deck thee with her deathless spoils.  
For those whose lives are in retreat,  
Their valor and ambition flown,  
In vain the 'larum drum is beat,  
In vain the battle-trumpet blown."  
—*Oriental, Trans. by W. R. Alger.*

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A Lincoln County, Kan., girl writes this sensible advice: "Why do young men do so much loafing? Go to work. Push ahead! I am a young girl, but I clothe myself, and have money in the bank. I lay up more money every year than any young man within three miles of my home. When they get a dollar, they go to a dance and go home a dollar out. I advise all girls to cut clear of loafing boys. Stand by the boy who works, and never put your arm through the handle of a jug."

John 9:4: "I must work the work of Him that sent Me, while it is day. The night cometh when no man can work." Or in the modern vernacular, "Do it now."

*Chattanooga, Tenn.*

J. A. PATTEN.

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My message to your young people would be: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen!"

Very cordially your brother,  
*Chicago, Ill.* EDWIN M. RANDALL.

I hardly know what to send in the way of a short message to your young people, but you might say that the greatest enterprise of the age is that of making this world a Christian world. Without this consummation, our race can never be freed or educated; or, in the proper sense of the words, civilized and refined. The missionaries of the world are the torch-bearers of the human race; and if they do not light humanity along its cheerless way, the outlook will be dark indeed. Just at present there seems to be something like a moral uplift in most parts of the globe. Even China is

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moving toward the light; the great islands of the sea are astir; Japan can hardly be called a heathen nation any longer, although, like our own people, the Japanese are not yet fully Christian. India has advanced leagues upon leagues since I first went to that great empire. More than any other people, the Americans must carry a great responsibility in the future. Our young people should all be up and doing; and of them it might be said more truly than of any other people alive, that they must work while it is called the day. There is no time to be lost. May God bless you in your efforts to be moral and religious torch-bearers in a darkened world!

As ever, yours very truly,  
*Delaware, Ohio.* J. M. THOBURN.

Our real success in life lies much closer to us than we are apt to suppose, and that we are in constant danger of missing it by trying to do some great thing, and by assuming that we can only be successful in some great work. The great majority of men strand themselves in the effort to reach beyond the scope wherein success lies. Most of those who seek wealth, wreck themselves in the effort to acquire a greater fortune than they have capacity to rightly use if acquired. Most of those who seek fame, strip themselves in the mad race for an empty bubble of those very qualities which otherwise would have entitled them to, and might have won for them the good will of their fellows. What the world most needs is men of simple tastes, of honest effort, and contented

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mind. The man of real power is an unpretentious man, a man who does the duty lying nearest him; does it quietly, patiently, imperfectly it may be, but still does it. In him there is an entire absence of all that is intended for mere show. He may not have much learning. As a rule, he has not. His principal secret may be that he has applied himself to learn thoroughly one thing, and as a result, has accomplished that.

Each normal man or woman has some work he can do better than any one else in the world. If you know any one not so qualified in some respect or direction, you do not know him well enough to judge of his efficiency as a worker. . . . All efficient organization must be in obedience to this organic law of our being—development of that which is peculiar to you, supplemented by aid from others in those respects in which they are stronger than you. You not only have each peculiar resource and equipment, but you also each have a special environment. There are lights and shadows which fall upon your pathway that the rest of us know nothing of. Nathanael had an experience under the fig-tree which the world in two thousand years has never been informed of; yet it was known to his Master, and it alone constituted a certificate to acceptable discipleship. If you are faithful to the light given, you will reach farther and work farther into the future than you know.

With kind regards.

Respectfully yours,

*Clearfield, Pa.*

THOMAS H. MURRAY.

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### THE CHANCE FOR GREAT SERVICE.

These are great days for the young man or the young woman who wants to count for something. There is always a strenuous struggle going on for conspicuous places, but not much of a contest for conspicuous service. And yet the chances for great service are lying all about us—in the home, the shop, the State, the Nation, the Church. Anybody who wants to throw himself into the high work of righteousness can have all the chance he needs.

There can be no service worth while without preparation. You can not hold close communion between San Francisco and Manilla unless you have the cable. So you can not do much for the Kingdom unless you have met the King, and have bowed the knee to Him. If you are going to be an apostle of righteousness, you must have the baptism of the righteous God.

What a work for righteousness the young people can do in these days! There is the saloon! It must be dethroned—cast out. And the young people can do it. There is the spirit of dishonesty in business. It must be exercised. And the young people can do it. There is the threatening avalanche of worldliness. It must be averted. And the young people can do it. There is the growing indifference to the Church. It must be changed into respect. And the young people can do it. There is the increasing disregard for the Sabbath. It must be checked. And the young people can do it. The list of things that the young people, in

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their consecration and devotion to Christ, the Church, and the country, can do, grows longer and longer.

Vast resources of power reside in our young people. They must give reverent attention at times to the serious notes in the song of life. They must prepare to meet and discharge their sacred responsibilities. If they shirk them, Christ, the Church, and the country will lose. If they meet them bravely and discharge them faithfully, all the interests that make for the advancement of the higher life of the individual and of the nation will be quickened, and the Kingdom will be established on earth.

STEPHEN J. HERBEN.

*Editor The Epworth Herald,  
Chicago, Ill.*

Answer to yours of March 16th has been delayed by a multitude of engagements. But if I had the ear of the youth of the country for two minutes, my message would be: Avoid evil companions, never touch liquor or associate with those who do. I was born and brought up in the city of New York, and have lived in and near the city all of my life, and am now an old man (68), but have yet to drink my first glass of liquor, or take my first chance at a gambling game.

Take God into partnership with you early in life, and always consult Him in every transaction of moment, be it business or otherwise, and your reward will be according to your faith.

My recompense has been rich in experience

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with joy and contentment in His service, and a great reward and stewardship has come to me since I was sixty years of age.

Sincerely and cordially yours,  
*Ridgewood, N. J.*      JAMES W. PEARSALL.

I would use the first minute in urging the blessed and imperative duty of loving God with all the heart. The second in urging the blessed and imperative duty of loving our neighbor as ourselves.

*Portland, Oregon.*      DAVID H. MOORE.

Bishop Warren sends as his message:

“If I were a voice, a persuasive voice,  
I'd travel the wide world through,  
And speak to men in every clime,  
And tell them to be true.”

HENRY W. WARREN.  
*University Place, Colorado.*

My message would be:

“To live that sinking in the last long sleep,  
Although thy friends around thy bed may  
weep,  
Rejoicing thou shalt go.  
Although the path is darksome, yea, and  
drear,  
He that is strong will take away all fear.”  
—*Sir William Jones.*

Yours ever,      D. A. GOODSSELL.  
*New York City.*

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I think I should tell them that the true aim of life is not the attainment of wealth, culture, or friends; that it is not even making the most out of one's self and one's powers; but that it is service and usefulness for others. I would tell them that wealth, culture, friends are most valuable as means to this one end, and that the use of wealth, culture, and friends must be kept sedulously in mind, even when one is in the preparatory stage of training, and has not yet entered on the full career of hoped-for service; but that the training for service and subsequent usefulness can be greatly helped by using all current opportunities to benefit others. I would insist that the unselfish life is the happiest life; that pleasure follows service, but escapes when pursued. It is a by-product. I would show that "love to being in general" is the philosophy of Christ's summary of the law, and should be the law of life, and that includes God as the major part of "*being in general.*"

I would then press the privilege of cheerful, strenuous effort to fit one's self for the maximum possible service in life, under the rule that all one has and is and can be must be given to the service of God and man.

WILLIAM HAYES WARD.

*Editor The Independent,  
New York.*

Do not be impatient with your surroundings. *Invariably* they hold opportunity for great achievement. It matters not so much *where* you live as *how* you live. Not so much *what*



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your work may be as *how* you do it. Not so much *what* you have of mind or substance as *how* you use it. In that *how* is your answer to conscience; and in that answer is the test of character; and character is the only indestructible product of personal existence. By all means learn to think, but meanwhile "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for *out of it* are the issues of life." (Prov. 4: 23).

The Christ heart is the model. It is:

- (1) A **C**heerful heart.
- (2) A **H**umble heart.
- (3) A **R**everent heart.
- (4) An **I**ncorruptible heart.
- (5) A **S**imple heart.
- (6) A **T**rustful heart.

This is the *Christ heart*, framed in the initial letters of the magic name by which we conquer.  
*Washington, D. C.* EARL CRANSTON.

1. Fear God. There is a God, and He reigns in heaven and on earth. Man was made by Him and is accountable to Him. Desire Him more than gold or place or pleasure, and, desiring Him, seek Him; and, seeking Him, find Him; and, finding Him, you shall be satisfied.

2. Keep His commandments. Obedience is better than sacrifice, better than forms and ceremonies, prayers and fastings, professions and verbal protestations. What you say, what you do, even does not count, but what you are. Obedience is your life and obedience lays such charge upon the whole man—body, soul and spirit, head, heart, hand, feet—as

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Mary, the mother of Jesus, laid upon the servants of the feast in Cana, when she said, "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it."

3. Be Christian. The best thing in the world is to be a Christian. Enthroned Christ in your hearts and lives. Imbibe His spirit; be transformed into His likeness; walk in His steps. Let not the love of money or the love of the world control you, but the love of Christ. Believe on Him; know Him; keep company with Him; serve Him.

4. Make the world Christian. The building up of the Kingdom of Christ in all the world—let this be your first thought. Let the missionary spirit possess you. Let the uttermost man feel your influence. Love your own city, your own nation, but live for the race. Let your constant prayer be, "Lord, use me." And be willing to be used of God in any way to promote the reign of Christ among men.

*Washington, D. C.*                      FRANK D. POWER.

In reply to your question, will say that if any such opportunity ever presents itself, I think now that I would say something like the following:

Young friend, the one vitally important matter in this life is to build enduring character. One may accumulate riches, receive honors at the hands of his fellows, become famous; he may shine in the exclusive social circles; he may be a giant intellectually; in short, he may be or possess all those things which go to make up what is popularly called a successful life, but be it remembered that these things are

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temporal, and must eventually be surrendered. To use the dying words of Horace Greeley, "Only one thing endures—character." And the only true standard of character is Christian character. Whatever the un-Christian man may be, he is lacking in the crowning virtue—Christ-likeness. Make the first business of your life that of laying deep and broad the foundations and the rearing the superstructure of enduring character—Christian character.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,  
*Brookfield, Mo.*

W. F. BURRIS.

If I had the ear of the youth of the nation for two minutes, I would have to hang up the receiver at the end of about a half of a minute, for I am packing my goods to move to Nebraska. But I would say to them: First, give your heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ as the one fundamental and essential thing for a truly successful career. Second, never lose your faith in the eternal value of the things that are right. Third, have courage to stand up for the right at all hazards, under all circumstances, all the time. Fourth, be diligent; don't be afraid that you will do too much work; be a hustler in the world, but do not hustle so fast as to slight your work; do your work well whether it be great or small. Fifth, never be a growler; do not let yourself get the sulks; walk on the sunny side of the street. Remember that there is more inspiration in stars than in snails that are found on the damp, clammy side of old rocks. Sixth, don't boast about your-

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self; expect to win; don't worry when evil-doers seem to win ahead of you; let the world understand that you do not expect to be defeated; give God the glory for the victories.

Yours very truly, WM. J. DAVIDSON.

*Decatur, Ill.*

If I had the ear of the youth of the nation for two minutes, I should quote to them John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Yours fraternally, J. M. MEEKER.

*President Centenary Collegiate Institute,  
Hackettstown, N. J.*

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." "I have written unto you, young men, because you are *strong*."

Truly yours, W. S. HOLT.

*Portland, Ore.*

I would give them a lesson on the abiding presence of Christ as set forth in the 14th chapter of John.

E. D. BAILEY.

*Brooklyn, N. Y.*

"There is but one question, and that is the gospel. It can and will correct everything that needs correction. My only hope for the world is in bringing the human mind into contact with Divine revelation."

WM. E. GLADSTONE.

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Tell them to master self; to take pains; to count success a good thing if it is not at the expense of some one else; and above all, to believe that the principles of the religion of Jesus Christ should be accepted personally and upheld.

Yours truly, JOHN WILLIS BAER.  
*President Occidental College,  
Los Angeles, Cal.*

Replying to your inquiry, I would say to the youth of the land, addressing each one individually:

As early as possible find the place in life for which your natural endowments fit you. In doing this, be entirely honest with yourself, and let not an unwise ambition cause you to try to fill a place for which nature has not fitted you. If you do thus unwisely choose, you will be unhappy; you will be a failure. Having found the right place, thoroughly prepare yourself to fill it. Find the right rule to guide you in it. Faithfully follow this rule, and you may always be happy, and you will reach life's best success.

Strive for the very highest and best there is in whatever place you fill. Make of it a success. But do not let your idea of success be shaped after the world's mold, which forms it according to the number of dollars acquired, or the station of ostentatious power attained. It may require heroic courage to withstand the alluring popular tendency to seek success after that ideal. But if you simply open your eyes and behold the innumerable

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shipwreck lives all about you, made such by those who have sought only after that ideal, and if you but consider the worse than bitter disappointment which comes to the very few who do attain to it, you will know that such courage pays well. It brings its own ample reward.

As the sole rule of life, study prayerfully the teachings of Jesus the Christ, and try patiently, persistently, every day, to apply them in the domestic, business, and social duties of your life. Rightly understood, rightly applied, these teachings will furnish sure and perfect guidance in every affair of life. Nor will they cause a sneer that you need notice; but rather will they excite admiration and give you real power with men.

Do not ever wear a long face, or go about as though it were a very sad and solemn thing to be a real Christian. Be ever joyous, as real Christians have a right to be. You are in the world; it is your privilege and duty to use the things of the world as God intends you to use them. They are not evil, but the temptation to use them for evil is strong; sometimes it is terrific. Use, but take care not to abuse, either by neglect or wrong use. Be always kindly, firm, and heroic, and you will thus get all the real good there is in the world and in the things of the world; and yet you will be kept from fashioning yourself after the world. You will thus know to discern, concerning these things and your relation to them, what the will of the Lord is. And you will thus unconsciously acquire power to overcome evil with good,

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and, without seeming to try, you will win many out of the world unto righteousness.

Applying faithfully this rule, whatever your business vocation, out of it you will bring sure success. Life will be filled with brightness, success, and noblest fruitage, and its ending will be crowned with triumph.

Most sincerely,

JAMES LUTHER SECOR.

*Lawyer, St. Louis, Mo.*

Dr. R. N. Adams, to whom your letter of July 31st was addressed, has referred the same to me for reply.

I would say, in answer to your question, I would tell them, as is my custom: Repent of your sins; turn away from them; get right with God; consecrate your lives to Him; live and work for Him as long as the day lasts; bring as many souls to Christ as possible. Beware of falling into the errors of which we are warned in these last days. "Count not your life dear to yourself," but be terribly in earnest for others, and constantly look for "that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus."

Yours in His name, A. W. WRIGHT.

*Assistant to Field Secretary, Presbyterian Home  
Missions,  
Minneapolis, Minn.*

Develop your higher life, for "Blessed are the pure in heart." Live for others, for "He who humbleth himself shall be exalted."

*St. Paul, Minn.*

ROBERT MCINTYRE.

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In response to your request, I think my message would be this:

If you want to live a life that would be fullest of satisfaction, satisfaction that will last, then devote this life of yours wholly to the service of God and to the service of your fellow-men, rather than to self-indulgence.

Sincerely,                      ZILLAH FOSTER STEVENS.  
*Secretary Temperance Department, W. C. T. U.*

Cultivate a clairvoyant vision. Look not at the things that are seen, but look through them. Behind nature and its science, discover God. Behind history and its progress, see the divine purpose. Behind providence, discover the divine will. Behind experience, commune with the divine presence. Above all, cultivate the soul-sight with reference to your fellow-man. Be not deceived by the man on the surface, who is conventional. Be not balked by the man beneath the surface, who is deformed by sin. But see the hidden man in the soul, who, by divine grace, may and must be developed into the likeness of Jesus Christ, the eternal and glorified Son of God.

*Rochester, N. Y.*      CORNELIUS WOELFKIN.

Righteousness lies at the foundation of success. Do not imagine that you can succeed unless you are right. "Every one therefore who proveth these words of Mine (righteous teachings) and doeth them shall be likened unto the wise man, who built his house on the rock." Godliness is profitable for all things, having the promise of the life that now is and



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of that which is to come." Injustice, impurity, unfaithfulness, intemperance never win. Man must learn the value of righteousness. It exalts the individual, as well as the nation. Do right in the home, in business, in public life.

J. P. GREENE.

*President William Jewell College,  
Liberty, Mo.*

In reply to your question, I will say that would advise them to study closely the lives of the self-made leaders of our country, such as Lincoln, Grant, Hugh Miller, Thomas A. Edison, and others. They will see the many obstacles which these men had to overcome, the many hardships they had to endure; and as they enter upon their own careers, it will be with a confidence and a courage born of the fact that the youth of to-day has hundreds of opportunities not enjoyed by his forebears. The boy who makes honesty, punctuality, industry, sobriety the guiding principles of his life is absolutely sure of success.

Yours respectfully,

ANDREW L. HARRIS.

*Ex-Governor of Ohio.*

Inasmuch as there is a marked tendency in all classes of society, and especially among young people, to subordinate moral distinctions to social distinctions. Since fear, prudence, self-interest, and a score of like reasons impel so many nowadays to subject the most sacred moral obligations to the false tests of expediency or policy, I would say to our young people that

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Christianity holds the final word in all matters pertaining to life, and that there can be no compromise with one's conscience in matters of conduct. Right is right. Beyond that there is no appeal. There is no compromise in the Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt not steal" is final. "Thou shalt not bear false witness"—there can be no middle ground as to truth-telling. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" still remains unchanged. The world has its standard. There is nothing in common between them. How can there be? "They that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh; and they that are after the spirit, the things of the spirit. "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." In this everlasting conflict between the flesh and the spirit, all attempts at compromise must bring forth the fruits of sin and death. A very real need of these grandly glorious years is that our young people shall, if the need be, dare to stand alone. It is not easy, and it never will be easy. There are no "flowery beds of ease" for the knight-errants of Christian chivalry. It takes courage to stand alone. In a book of Olive Schreiner, called "Trooper Peter Halket," when the person of that name sat watching in the heart of Africa a long, lone night, a stranger, one Jesus Christ, appeared to him, and, in the course of a long conversation, told him of a certain person who had dared to do this sort of thing; and Peter Halket asked what happened to the man, and when he heard, said, "Well, anyhow, he did n't die," and Christ replied, "Peter Simon Halket,

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it is easier for a man to die than to stand alone. He who can stand alone can also, when the need be, die." But such unyielding courage is glorious. May there be more and more of it in evidence among all our people, young and old!

Yours very sincerely,

EZRA SQUIER TIPPLE.

*Drew Theological Seminary,  
Madison, N. J.*

You have put a hard proposition before a man certainly. With all the great and glorious truths of the gospel to select from, it would be hard to say which of them all was most needed to be mentioned. But if I am to choose now, I would say. "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22). I mean the faith described in the Bible; not merely the faith that assents to the truth, "There is a God." Not simply the faith that trusts God to save the soul through Christ. Bible faith trusts God to save the body in this life, as well as the soul in the next life. Such faith leads a man to starve if he can not make a living and be a Christian. Such a faith gives up the job if the work interferes with doing God's will and serving Christ. With Paul, such faith says, "The life I now live I live in faith, which is in the Son of God." Would that our young people might realize that true faith vitalizes, energizes, and controls all the faculties and powers of both soul and body now and forever. Such a faith can not rest in believing or trusting—it does things. By faith, *Abel offered*—a sacrifice; *Enoch had been well pleasing to God*; Noah prepared an ark; Abraham went out,

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also offered up Isaac; Moses did a lot of things. So did Jephthah, Sampson, Barak, Gideon.

Young people, note this well: "They wrought." Underscore "*wrought*;" emphasize it with capital letters—WROUGHT. These men had faith in God, and did not need a testimony meeting or a class-meeting, not even a prayer-meeting, to let others know where they stood. Their respective communities for miles around knew these men had faith, because their faith wrought righteousness, energetically, heroically, perseveringly.

Yours truly,

CHAS. W. HAYS.

*Portland, Ore.*

I have yours at hand. Two minutes is a short period for a minister to deliver himself of a great message. However, complying with your request, I think I should say something like this to the youth of America: Spiritualize human life. Utilize time. Keep eye and ear open for opportunities for service, and subject yourselves to most rigid military discipline in every avocation of life.

Very fraternally, B. P. FULLERTON.

*Field Secretary, Home Missions, Presbyterian Church,  
St. Louis, Mo.*

Replying to your question, "If you had the ear of the youth of the nation for two minutes, what message would you give them?" that is a difficult question to answer, as so many important subjects crowd upon one's attention.

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Perhaps I should say, as the most important things:

Young people, first consecrate your lives to God, for in Him all the fullness and abundance of life is found. Look upon life as a great mission and a divine trust. Find some definite, God-appointed work for which you are fitted, prepare yourself by education, by the best possible training and culture, to do that work, so that God may approve it. "Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God," and success will surely attend you in this world, and in the world to come you shall have life eternal.

Very sincerely yours,

THOMAS NICHOLSON.

*Corresponding Secretary Board of Education,  
New York City.*

Your request for a letter to young people! If I had two minutes in which to speak, what would I say to them?

"O, trifle not with life, 'tis but an hour;  
Redeem its every moment as it flies.  
Live for the future life; watch, watch and  
pray.  
Remember, child of time, thou art im-  
mortal,  
O, fling not life away."

Take a safe path. Choose the way thou takest with wisdom. Then, with an unfaltering trust, thou shalt approach thy rest. Thy life! It is a poem thou art writing, or an eternal tragedy thou art enacting.

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“Thy moving finger writes and, having writ,  
moves on;  
Nor all thy piety or wit can change a single  
line of it;  
Nor all thy tears wash out a single word  
of it.”

O youth, let the glory of the Sun of righteousness brighten thy life with a foretaste of heaven's rapture. “For the path of the just is as a shining light.” W. ROBERT GOSS.

*Lecturer, Yonkers, N. Y.*

I think I would say:

*Start Right.*

If wrong, get right quickly. Pray yourself back.

*Do Right.*

Not because it is your wish, but because it is your duty, irrespective of what you wish.

*Serve.*

We are here not to make a living, but a life. The best in us comes out only by doing our best to benefit others.

*Watch.*

We fall when we fail to watch; never while we pray. Watching keeps us out of temptation. Praying helps us out when we are in it.

*Pray.*

Jesus did. He told us how. Our prayers may never change God's will, but they do make it possible, by the change wrought in us, for Him to do for us what He could not do before we prayed.

HENRY SPELLMEYER.

*St. Louis, Mo.*

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In answer to your question, I would speak to them on Christ-likeness in service as follows:

In the work of uplifting and saving our fellow-men, the Master calls us into labor and fellowship with Him. He is our example, our Leader, our inspiration. His work was to help, to uplift, to save men. This was the supreme controlling element of His entire life, and to this end He bent every energy. To Him a kind word, a loving deed, a brotherly expression of sympathy to a crushed and bleeding heart was of greater importance than any ancient rule or custom built up by human conceit and supported by human selfishness. In this He was truly sublime, for He not only disregarded the whims and conventionalities of society, rejected the honors and applause of men, bore our sorrows, became acquainted with our griefs, but He gave up heaven—the glory which He had with the Father before the world began. He voluntarily became poor, a poverty not momentary or assumed, but a poverty real, irrevocable, absolute, which reveals at once His matchless courage, His superb heroism.

To the attainment of this high ideal, my young friends, the Master calls us. If we are truly His, we must be like Him; and the absolute test of our loyalty to Him is not our claims upon His love, our place in His Church, or our enthusiasm for His cause, but our willingness to conform our lives to Him.

Let us, therefore, prove ourselves worthy of our high calling by measuring up to this high standard. The baptism of His spirit, the infusion of His life into ours is the absolute need

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of the Church of to-day. Let this be done, and a new day shall dawn of vigorous, unselfish activity—a new day for the poor, the suffering, the distressed; a new day for the new interpretation of the truths of the gospel through the lives and the characters of men. When this new day shall come—and may God hasten the hour—when this new day shall come, a Christianity that shall be Christ's in spirit and life shall everywhere be manifest, the cold and passionless life of the Church will spring into warmth and action, and Christ Jesus be enthroned in the hearts of men. May God grant unto us all the spirit of Jesus!

*Cincinnati, Ohio.*

M. C. B. MASON.

The *Home Herald*, of Chicago, says: "Better to believe everything in the Bible literally than to believe none of it vitally. The saddest people in the world to-day are those who are trying to pump happiness out of the cisterns of amusement."

Your letter received. I inclose my few words in reply to your query.

Have high ideals, and try to live up to them. Let all your actions in college life, and afterwards, bear the stamp of dignity, self-respect, and reverence. The days of boyish pranks having passed, the ruffian spirit so often manifested nowadays and the evil tendencies consequent thereto should be studiously avoided. The things that count for character, an upright, moral, and religious life, should be cultivated.



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I hope this will answer the purpose for which it is intended.

Sincerely yours,            ELMER E. LACEY.

*General Secretary Missouri Sunday School  
Association,  
St. Louis, Mo.*

## SUPPLEMENT.

THE following letters have been received since the arrangement of matter was placed in the hands of the publishers:

In reply to your question, will say, that I would try to lead them to a better appreciation of home life; to impress upon them the importance of an education; to inspire them to higher thoughts and nobler aspirations, and teach them to be loyal to themselves, their country, and their Creator.

Very truly yours,                      B. F. CARROLL,  
*Des Moines, Ia.*    *Governor.*

To your question, I answer: If I had the ears of the youth of the land, I would shout into them tolerance, patriotism, respect for the rights of others, and obedience to the laws of man and the laws of God.

Yours very truly,                      JOHN BURKE.  
*Governor's Office,*  
*Bismarck, N. D.*

I would say, above all things, be honest, temperate, and industrious, and there would be no possibility of failure.

Yours truly,                      JOHN E. SHAFROTH,  
*Executive Chamber,*    *Governor.*  
*Denver, Colo.*

## SUPPLEMENT

Replying briefly to your letter, will state that, in my judgment, the American boy of to-day is a very creditable product of American soil and free institutions.

I don't know as any general advice can be given that would prove beneficial. Every boy should cultivate the true spirit of independence and individuality. Most of the mischief comes from following the lead of others, instead of relying upon personal judgment and common sense.

Yours truly, B. B. BROOKS.

*Executive Department,  
Cheyenne, Wyo.*

Replying to your communication just received, I would tell them this: Whatever you have to do, do it well. Be prompt, be just, be loyal, be true.

Yours very truly,

ALBERT N. GILCHRIST,

*Executive Chamber,  
Tallahassee, Fla.*

*Governor.*

I think that I would urge upon them the necessity for thorough preparation and training to meet the serious and growing demands of the present-day business and professional occupations, and remind them of the constantly higher value placed upon the element of personal character as a factor in modern social and industrial life.

Yours truly,

*Executive Department,  
Springfield, Ill.*

S. T. DENEEN.

## SUPPLEMENT

I would say to them that, first of all, the duty of right thinking should have consideration, and I would quote to them from Dr. Hillis' work on "A Man's Value to Society," as follows:

"The measure of personal worth, therefore, is the number and quality of thoughts issuing from man's mind. For all the doing called commerce, and all the speaking called conversation and books, begin with the thinking called ideas. Each thing was first a thought. A loom is Arkwright's thought, dressed up in iron clothes. Books are the scholar's thoughts, caught and fastened on the white page. As our planet and the harvests that cover it are the thoughts of God rushing into visible expression, so all houses and ships, all cities and institutions, are man's inner thoughts, taking an outer and inner embodiment."

"He who sows thoughts will reap acts, habits, and character."

*Pierre, S. D.*

R. S. VESSEY,  
*Governor.*

I would tell them that the years of youth are the most important ones of life. That when one comes to the age when wisdom is supposed to have been acquired by the experience of years, we would give all of wealth, all of lands, or position that may have been acquired, to have once more the glorious possibilities of youth, which are gone from us forever. I would tell to the ear of youth that the essential thing in education is to learn to think earnestly and steadfastly and continuously, if need be, about the important matters

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of life and the problems that we are to deal with. That because in youth we acquire knowledge easily and retain it through life, it is essential that we keep good company; that we have clean thoughts, read good books, and use diligence. If the youth of our land could follow steadfastly after these four essentials to proper living, they could not go far wrong in any line of human endeavor.

Very respectfully,

ALBERT C. SHALLENBURGH.

*Executive Office,  
Lincoln, Neb.*

It is extremely embarrassing for one governor to address so many probable governors, but I know you will be lenient with me. It is one of the most valuable and splendid legacies that came to me from my father, and that is going to you from your fathers, but which I sometimes fear is being appreciated less and less by each succeeding generation, this almost inestimable privilege of every youth to indulge his aspiration for the highest and best that his country has to bestow.

The humblest lad, no matter how cheaply he may be clothed, how little his good parents may be able to do for him, how lonesome the few coins in his pocket may be, has just as many rights as any other lad. And when I speak of *rights*, I do n't want you to confound the word with *license*, because this good country of ours gives us such a multitude of privileges that many people seem to have the idea that they should not be restrained in any direction by

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laws. Now this is a most erroneous position, and I want every boy to bear that distinction in mind. There are wholesale laws on our books, laws that those who have gone before us have found, by long and oftentimes hard experience, that a course contrary to the teachings of, was also consistent with good citizenship. That is, that without these restraining laws many, who otherwise would have been creditable citizens, became dishonest, intemperate, reckless, and regardless of the rights of others, so that unless you, who I am sure do not require to be restrained by laws that you may become good citizens, not only passively submit to, but actively support, the laws that experience has shown to produce the best general results—the best people—then in government such as ours, where the people make the laws, we have no hope of attaining to the better things that all right thinking persons are always hoping for.

I ask you to carefully consider these things, because only a few years hence you must act for yourselves and for those who follow you.

Do not our good laws, our many school-houses, our asylums and homes for homeless children, our great hospitals for the sick in body and mind, our public libraries filled with good books, and many other beneficial things that we are enjoying every day, show that somebody has been at work in the past, at a great expenditure of time and money, to make our land worthy of being the home of the sort of people that you like to associate with, and that are honored and respected the world over?

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It will be your duty, and I have no doubt your inclination and pleasure as well, in the years that are coming to carry our land always forward to higher and better things.

*Executive Mansion,  
Augusta, Maine.*

B. M. FERNALD,  
*Governor.*

Make the most of your educational advantages, form the habits of thrift and economy, cultivate an interest in public affairs, learn to think for yourselves, practice the Golden Rule, and attend regularly some Church. Keep the head clear, the body sound, and the mind free from taint. And above all, do not be afraid to work. Do not be satisfied with simply completing a fixed number of hours of labor a day, but let the accomplishment of results, rather, be the measure of your toil. Follow these simple rules, and the future will bring its sure reward.

Very respectfully,  
*Executive Department,  
Providence, R. I.*

A. J. POTHIER,  
*Governor.*

The question you propound is one of such epochal importance that I hesitate to make reply as briefly as I am compelled to do, and as your space or the public interest would demand. No thought has so fixed my attention as the thought of how to arrest the youth of to-day and fix their attention to the importance of life. I shall give you, however, as briefly as I can the salient features of my conclusions.

From the scrawny, bitter crab-apple to the luscious Jonathan, is a long stretch for both appearance and taste. It is the work of culture.

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From the ill-favored pony, as high as a man's waist, to the beautiful Percheron, is the work of breeding. From the primitive savage to the intelligent, modern man, is the work of development. But development of what? The savage has physical strength and agility, even surpassing the average man of to-day. What then has developed? The intelligence. The primitive man can not be held to intense mental application more than ten minutes without becoming irritable and even dangerous. The intelligent, civilized man can devote himself to intense mental activity for hours.

And yet in the face of these startling facts, many young people do not appreciate the importance of education for the training of their minds. The world is full of the records proving beyond controversy that the difference between the youth with the college education and the youth without it, is spelling the difference in the intellectual leadership of the world. Were such profound stupidity, in the presence of overwhelming evidence, applied to business methods, men would be declared foolish in the extreme. For instance, the world has slowly but surely learned that industry, faithfulness, and honesty are cardinal principles on which to build commercial success. So fundamental have these facts become that practically all business men accept them as essential. How foolish any man looks in the eyes of the world who attempts to succeed in business without adhering to these principles.

But the evidence is even more overwhelming that higher education fits men for the intellectual



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leadership of the world. About one-half of one per cent of our population secures a college education. And yet that small number hold fully 50 per cent of the leading positions of trust and responsibility in the country. Putting it another way, education shows its value in a relative degree by the following illustration: A *common school education* represents a man's chances for success by a line *one inch long*. In comparison with this, the *high school education* represents his chances by a line *twenty-two inches long*, while a *college education* represents his chances for success by a line *eighteen feet long*.

But the intellectual leadership of the world needs still further qualification. We can not conceive the true intelligence, and so intellectual leadership, are worthy or complete without character. And character, based on simple morality and not on genuine Christian experience, is borrowed and uncertain light. Just so we believe that education which does not at the same time train character and develop the "world vision" that calls for service, is incomplete education.

If then we might have the ear of the youth of the land for two minutes, we would say to them, by all means and by any sacrifice secure a college education. But with equal emphasis we would say, secure the undergraduate work of your college training in a Christian college. It is well enough to complete post-graduate and professional work in the great universities after one is established in right principles and is mature enough to be thrown upon his own moral

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responsibility. But during the formative period of the youth's life he not only needs, but should see it and choose, the environment of a Christian college, where the influences are such as to help him in character-building.

Finally, we would say, let no one tempt you to a "short cut" course. It is mental development that you need, and not mere technical training in some art or craft. A master mind will soon be master of some art or profession, and will be master of the world.

Very cordially yours,                   H. R. DEBRA  
*President Missouri Wesleyan College,*  
*Cameron, Mo.*

If I had the ear of the youth of the land for two minutes, I would say to them:

It is great to be young. The heart beats full, the veins quick, the ear alert, the eye penetrating and far-seeing, the hand like a hammer, the voice not shrill and piping, as it will become in old age, but with that singing bird in the throat with which men may lead a chorus of 10,000 voices or fling a generation of men at a breastworks. It is a period of pride in family, love of country, courage, and high hope. Educate all your powers, cultivate the social spirit, follow as your ideals great souls, give yourselves to goodness, purity, and stand and live under the outstretched arms of the cross.

Very cordially yours,  
*Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.*                   EDWIN A. SCHELL.

If I could have the ear of the youth of this land for two minutes only, and never meet one

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of them again until we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, I would cry unto them with all the passion of my soul, "*Lay hold on eternal life!*" Yours sincerely,

*New York City.*

HOMER C. STUNTZ.

In reply to your question, would say: I do not think I could improve on Ecclesiastes, Chap. 12, verse 1: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

*Guinn, Mich.*

RICHARD QUAYLE.

In answer to yours of recent date, if I had the ear of the youth, of the young people of the country for two minutes, among other things I would say to them is: "Make it your aim to be true every hour of every day to the Lord Jesus Christ. This will bring you more satisfaction at compound interest, than all other things besides." Very truly yours,

*Philadelphia, Pa.*

WARD PLATT.

I have not considered this question perhaps with the seriousness that its importance warrants, but with such impressions and knowledge as I now possess, I would surely say, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Most sincerely your brother,

*Cincinnati, Ohio.*

P. J. MAVEETY.

I would answer your question as follows: Are you a Christian? If not, I would advise

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you to see how quick you can become one in the full meaning of the word "Christian," which is like Christ. Yours very truly,  
*Youngstown, Ohio.* JOHN O. PEW.

My message would be: Whatever you do, wherever you go, be sure that you take Christ as your guest. MRS. JESSIE D. WESTENBERG.  
*Berkeley, Cal.*

What would I say to the young people in two minutes? I would say that God is stirring the nations as never before, to a sense of man's individual rights and responsibilities. He wants loyal messengers to run to and fro, carrying to the hungry multitude the good news of a loving Father and pitying Savior.

Your life is in His plan for this beautiful service, and He knows a great deal better than you do how and where you can best serve your generation. He has called you by name, knows all about you. He will make no mistake if you permit Him to order your goings. You surely can not refuse to give Him the leadership of your life and become, each in your own sphere, like Paul, ambassador for Christ.

Cordially yours,  
*Delaware, Ohio.* MRS. DELIA L. WILLIAMS.

If I could speak to the youth of the land two minutes, the message I would give would be: "Be ye reconciled unto God; unite in the fellowship of the Christian Church; cultivate an attitude of devotion toward God and of goodwill toward men; absolutely disbar the vices

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of profane language, the use of tobacco in any form; seek by good deeds to control your mood of mind and temperament of soul.”

Sincerely yours,      FREEMAN D. BOVARD.  
*San Francisco, Cal.*

For the young American—the young man—there must be some apprehension—comprehension is not possible—of the tremendous *problems* demanding solution.

He must develop a downright sense of *responsibility* towards one or more of them. Let him take at least one, glue himself to the issue, not too narrowly, stay by it until it, as it first dawned above the horizon and drew him to it, or, as it may be wisely modified by the inevitable changes of history, becomes a part of the assured items of the advancing life of the nation.

He must prefer the patriot to the partisan, and by his independent voting, when needed, bring the mere politician to terms.

Let him at all hazards make of *politics* a noble and life-long study. Next to religion, there is no nobler item of human progress worth his devotion than the political development of a great people.

*Delaware, Ohio.*

R. T. STEVENSON.

If I were given the ear of the youth of the land for two minutes, I would try to condense the whole appeal of my ministry. That appeal would be: Take Jesus Christ as Savior, Example, Master, and Friend. As Savior, because He saves a man from those destructive

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forces of life which we call sin; as Example, because He presents in personal and concrete form the highest ideal of conduct and character to which man can aspire; as Master, not only because of His divine authority, but also because His will is good-will—aye, more; the best will; and as Friend, because no man can live his life alone, and Jesus Christ is the best of friends.

I would be sure that if my advice were heeded, that it would mean for the American youth the highest character, the largest usefulness, and the brightest future.

Sincerely yours,                      MATT S. HUGHES  
*Pasadena, Cal.*

If I had the ear of our American youth for the "two minutes" you allow me, I would say, "Line up with the best!" Let them study that sentence for a while and see how much they can get out of it. Line up with the best.

I am yours cordially,  
*New York City.*                      R. J. COOKE.

I would say to the youth: If they wish to be made all that God would have them, they must take, as the basis of their experience, Gal. 2: 20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Self must be crucified before we can be used of God. We must be *emptied* vessels. The branch in the vine, clay in the potter's hands; in other words, *crucified*. Then

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we *shall live*. Christ will live in us. He will have come to His temple. He will do the work in *us* and *for* us. And if He lives in us and works through us, we can not be a failure. We will be an open Bible, read by all men; we will be fishers of men; we will be a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable unto God. From our lives, rivers of waters shall flow forth to bless and benefit mankind. Who could wish more than this? Who would dare to ask for as much if our Lord had not promised it? What an eternity of blessedness awaits the youth who early grasps this truth and allows it to blossom and fructify in his life.                      MAY C. BLISS.

*Los Angeles, Cal.*

If I had the ear of the youth of the nation for two minutes, my message would be: Do not be content with the trivial and frivolous things of life. Choose the things that are worth while. Study and know for yourself what God is doing through human agencies to save this world.                      Yours in service,

*Lebanon, Ill.*                      MRS. FRANCES P. WILSON.

I would tell young men to carry absolute conscience and integrity into business life, come gain or loss; to scorn all duplicity and chicanery; to first be men, cultivating manliness and worshiping a virile Christ, and afterwards put vocation and profession; to be citizens of warm patriotic type, but with cool heads, keeping clear from wild socialistic schemes, confusing liberty and license, democracy and anarchy; to be Christians without

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cant and sanctimoniousness, but with true piety, plenty of righteousness and social welfare activity.

LEVI GILBERT.

*Cincinnati, Ohio.*

Give your life fully to God for service anywhere in the world.

W. J. DAVIDSON.

*Evanston, Ill.*

In response to your question, I would say: You are to live a possible threescore and ten years in this world, and forever beyond the grave. What purpose, what ideals pursued and realized, will make the whole of life worth living? Does not true wisdom consist in choosing aims worthy of our powers and the best means of realizing them? What aim so noble as the one set forth by Jesus, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness?" to ascertain what God is working at and be a co-worker with Him in it? How shall I do this? For me to live is Christ; Christ the ideal, Christ the inspiration, Christ the supreme attraction, Christ's love constraining me; Christ's saving power filling me. Hear Him: "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE H. TREVER.

*Atlanta, Ga.*

If I had the ear of the youth of the land for two minutes, I would say to him: First, seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; be true to God and true to himself; really get religion and keep it, and so thoroughly mix it



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up with his business and his politics that he could not tell where one began and the other left off. That he keep his body strong and his mind clean, always remembering that "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." That he cultivate his mind by the reading of good periodicals and books. That he fill every position that is given to him so full that his employer can not afford to keep him in that position, but will be obliged to promote him. To know absolutely everything about the duties pertaining to the position he is filling, and quietly absorb knowledge of the duties in the position above him; that he never give one moment's thought or worry over the question of his earning more than he is getting. That he unite with some evangelical Church, and be true to its teachings, regular and faithful in his attendance upon its services, and that he support it with his means. That he always remember that the Sabbath day belongs to the Lord his God, and that he strictly observe it; that he also always remembers that one-tenth of his income belongs to God, so that his income should be tithed and a tenth of it used in God's work, and then, if his income will warrant it, that he give in excess of that.

I most thoroughly believe that any young man who will practice the above will not only make a success of life in the true sense of the word, but also a success of life as the world counts success, and command the respect of his fellow-men.

Yours truly,

*Elmira, N. Y.*

F. E. BALDWIN.

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Fear God and keep His commandments. Sin is the most awful thing in the world. In the keeping of God's commandments we have great reward. Keep a conscience void of offense toward God and man. Shun all forms of evil. Cleave to that which is good. Be loyal to home, Church, and State. "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord, thy God, giveth thee." The Bible is the staff of hoary age, and also the guide of early youth. Let Jesus Christ be your Exemplar. Walk in His footsteps. A life of temperance, sobriety, and industry is conducive to longevity. Religion is not a preparation for death, but a tonic which prepares us for life.

ROBERT FORBES.

*Philadelphia, Pa.*

If I had the ear—but I have not. It is impossible. Youth will not listen to the councils of age. It pushes ahead, its eye challenging the future, its ears filled with the music of its own dreams. It must learn its own lessons through its own experiences, as we have done. But if I had—this is what I would say: and it is not new—but is as old as sorrow and joy.

The secret of happiness is within and not without. Life consisteth not in the abundance of the things a man acquireth, but in the abundance he giveth out from the greatness of his own soul. There are "outside growers" and "inside growers," among men as among trees. There are those who grow by accretion, gathering to themselves houses and lands and stocks and bonds, and in so doing become slaves of

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things. The more of the outward they gather about them, the more the soul within languishes and shrinks and shrivels, stifled for want of the pure atmosphere of love, which is the natural, the God-given environment of souls. Love can not reach the soul of such an one except through the medium of profit and loss, and when you have found it, what a meager, uninteresting soul it is.

Then, there are others who grow from the inside. The soul gathers to itself the intellectual wealth of the universe. It builds avenues of sympathy between itself and other souls, and through these comes great enrichment of peace and good-will. It buries away in forgotten nooks living germs of kind deeds and loving services, and from these grow rich fruits and flowers to brighten, in unexpected ways, the dark places that come to all. And as the inner life of the man expands,<sup>1</sup> the outer walls grow thinner and thinner, until he scarce can recognize them as limitations at all. He comes into his glorious inheritance. All things are his, and he is Christ's and Christ is God's. "Build this more stately mansion, O my soul!"

*St. Louis, Mo.*

ISABELLE HORTON.

First, learn to know yourself, then utilize that knowledge by exercising the most perfect control over every faculty of body and mind. Every excessive indulgence and every failure to advance are chargeable either to lack of self-knowledge or lack of self-control and oftentime to lack of both. Luck is usually nothing more than readiness to grasp an opportunity, and suc-

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cess is merely such a mastery of yourself as will make that opportunity yours. In the achievement of such a mastery over yourself there is nothing of greater importance than a thorough Christian training, first, because it enables you to discover your shortcomings, and secondly, because it furnishes the power necessary to conquer yourself, which is absolutely essential before you can learn to know and conquer others.

GOVERNOR EBERHART.

*Minneapolis, Minn.*

You have but one life in this world to live, and it is brief; make it broad and deep with consecration to Jesus Christ. No better motto for it than this: "In the beginning God."

Yesterday we were children, to-day we are men and women, with a man and a woman's opportunity to serve. To-morrow, as life's westering sun sinks behind the far horizon line,—we fall asleep. The Persians have a saying when a babe is born, which runs like this; "O, little one, you come into the world with a wail when all around you are smiling; so live that when you leave the world, you leave with a smile, while all around you are crying." Make your life winsome with intelligence and grace, potential with purpose, and lasting with inspiration.

BEN. F. JONES.

Have a superior experience. Impart it to others.

J. O. RANDALL.

*Chicago, Ill.*



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